SOUL EATER

ATSUSHI OHKUBO

20

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SOUL EATER

vol. 20

by ATSUSHI OHKUBO

Before long the madness breaks out

SOUL EATER 20

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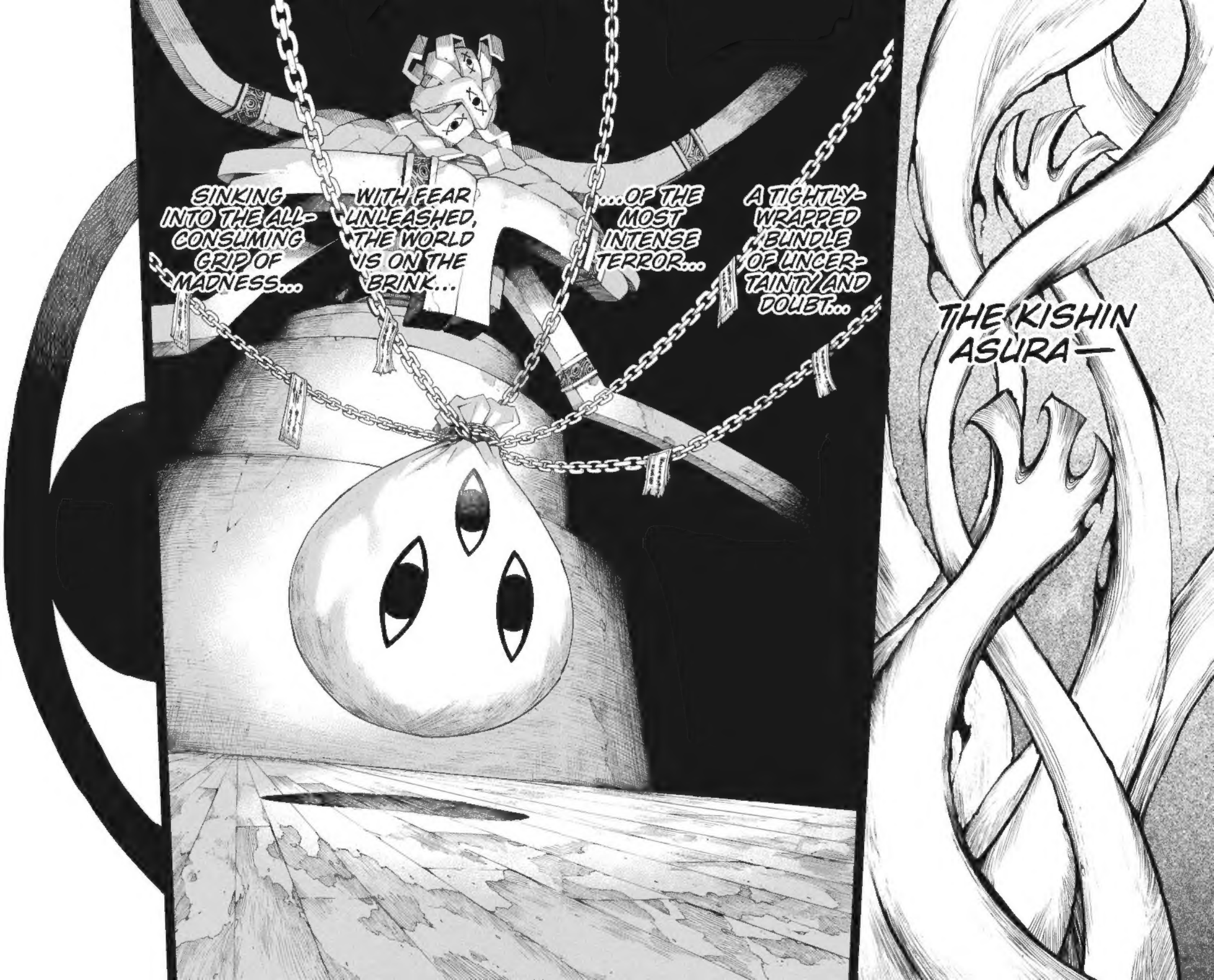
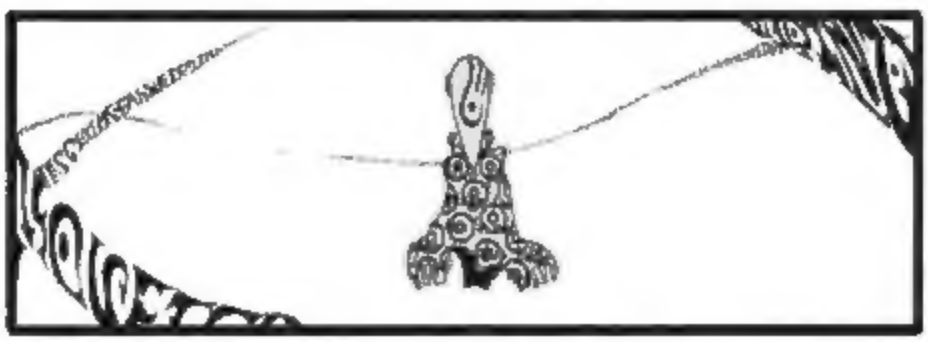
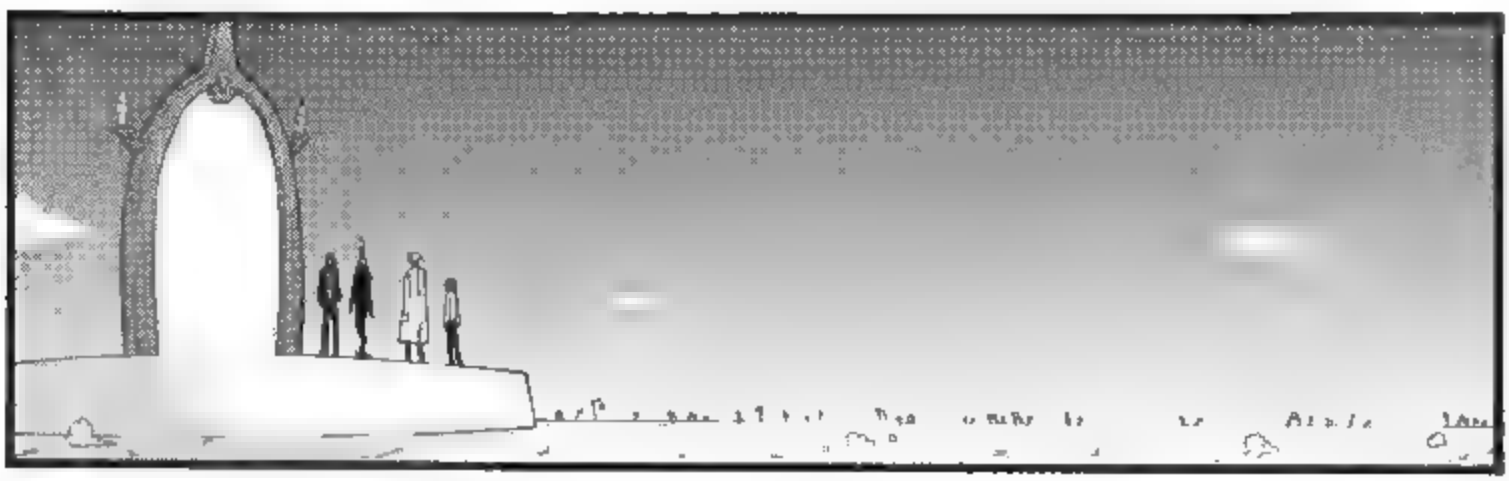
CHAPTER 82: THE WHEREABOUTS

SOUL EATER


SINKING INTO THE ALL-CONSUMING GRIP OF MADNESS...
WITH FEAR UNLEASHED, THE WORLD IS ON THE BRINK...
...OF THE MOST INTENSE TERROR...
A TIGHTLY-WRAPPED BUNDLE OF UNCER-TAINTY AND DOUBT...
THE KISHIN ASURA—

OHHH... O LORD, MY GOD...





OH, KID... WELL, WHAT COUNTS IS THAT YOU'RE HOME SAFE AND SOUND, RIGHT?

I'M SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU, FATHER.

AND WITH TWO LINES OF SANZU ALL CONNECTED UP TO BOOT! I CAN SEE YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO COME INTO YOUR OWN AS A TRUE SHINIGAMI!

SO, THEN... ABOUT THIS "NOAH" FELLOW...

THANK YOU, FATHER.

FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST LAID EYES ON HIM, I COULD TELL HE WAS A TERRIFYING MAN EVEN WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO FULLY GRASP WHY...

YES... RIGHT TO THE VERY END, I STILL HAD NO IDEA WHO OR WHAT HE REALLY IS.

HE WANTED EVERYTHING, WANTED TO COLLECT EVERYTHING, AND THAT'S WHAT HE TRIED TO DO...

BUT... THAT WAS IT. THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING ELSE DRIVING HIM...

WHEN PEOPLE WANT SOMETHING, IT'S USUALLY BECAUSE THEY WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITH IT. THERE'S SOME PURPOSE THAT DRIVES THEIR NEED TO POSSESS THINGS...BUT NOT WITH NOAH. I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THAT IN HIM.

HE WAS EMPTY...

A BUNDLE OF "GREED" ...

WHICH JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THE CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK OF EIBON. INTERESTING...

IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WAS SOME KIND OF "COLLECTING MACHINE." THAT'S THE BEST WAY I CAN THINK TO DE-SCRIBE IT.

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, FATHER?

I MIGHT... MAYBE... YUP, YUP, I'M THINKING THIS "NOAH" REALLY MIGHT HAVE BEEN JUST A "COLLECTING MACHINE" AFTER ALL...

NOAH-SAMA...

IN THE END, NOAH PERFORMED THE TASK THAT WAS SET OUT FOR HIM...

HE USED THE POWER OF GREED ...

...TO OBTAIN "BREW" ...

EIBON-SAMA SEALED HIMSELF AWAY...

...BUT NOT ME. I AM NOT LIKE HIM...I WANT TO TEACH OTHERS.

!!

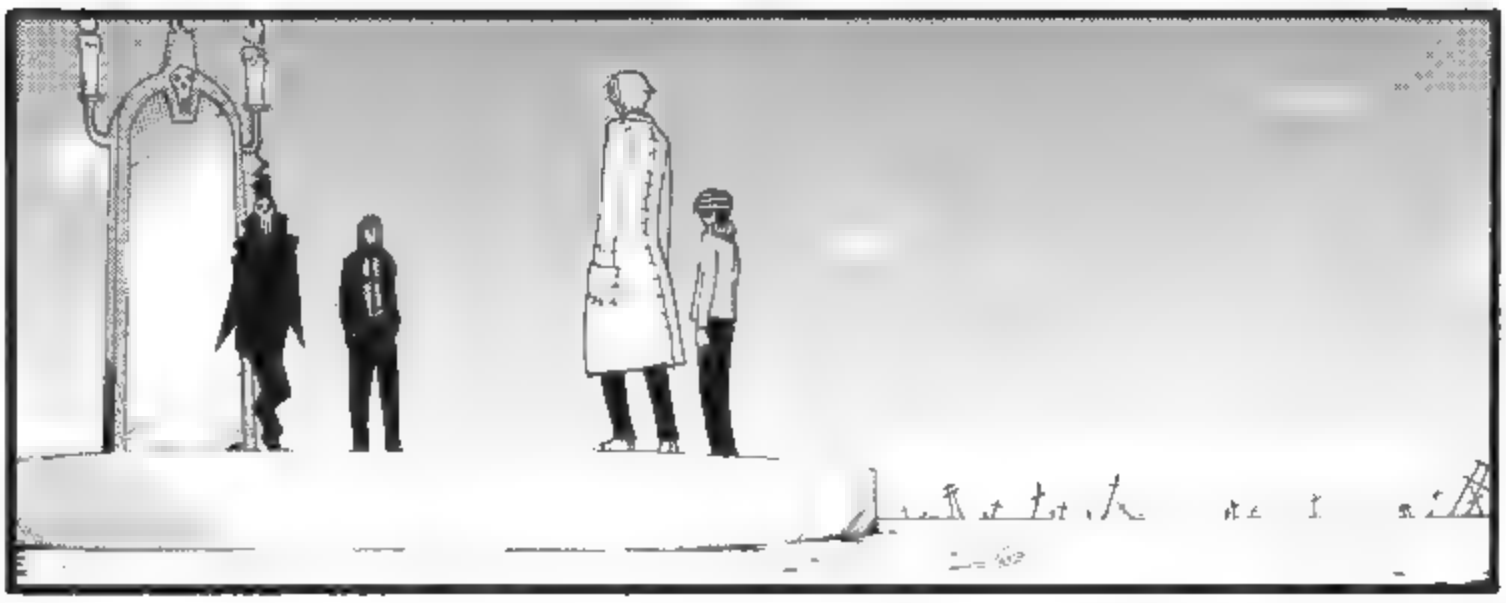
BOTO (PLONK)

WHEN HUMANITY FIRST OBTAINED KNOWL-EDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL...

...THEY LOST PARA-DISE...

AND YET...

...I WONDER WHAT HUMANITY WOULD BECOME IF PEOPLE OBTAINED EVEN MORE KNOWL-EDGE. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HUMANS LEARNED EVERYTHING THERE IS TO LEARN...?



DIDN'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING WHEN YOU ENCOUNTERED THE BOOK, STEIN-KUN?

THE BOOK OF EIBON OFFERS THE POSSIBILITY OF KNOWING ALL THINGS.

PEOPLE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO KNOW MORE THAN THEY ACTUALLY NEED... IF PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO KNOW ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW, THEY'D CEASE TO THINK ALTOGETHER. IT'D BE TANTAMOUNT TO CEASING TO LIVE...

WHEN CONFRONTED WITH ABSOLUTE KNOWLEDGE, PEOPLE JUST STOP THINKING. THAT'S HOW IT GOES.

I FELT LIKE I COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT FOR SOME REASON. LIKE MY THOUGHTS HAD STOPPED...

IS THAT THE MADNESS OF KNOWLEDGE, THEN...?

BUT WHAT IS MADNESS EXACTLY ...?

THE MADNESS OF KNOWL-EDGE, THE MADNESS OF POWER, AND OF COURSE... THE MAD-NESS OF FEAR.

BUT IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHICH CAME FIRST... IT'S LIKE THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG.

OR PERHAPS ORDER AROSE BECAUSE MADNESS EXISTS...

MADNESS ARISES BECAUSE ORDER EXISTS.

!!

(FU (FFT)

I SHALL OPEN A NEW FONT OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HUMANITY... THEY WILL BE MADE TO KNOW EIBON-SAMA'S GREAT-NESS.

EITHER WAY, THE FORCES OF ORDER MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO RESTRICT THE OUTPOURING OF EIBON-SAMA'S KNOWL-EDGE...

LET LOOSE THE ICON OF WRATH ...

SHIBA (SHWOOM)

パラ PARA

パラ PARA (FLIP)

NOAH-SAMA?

ZA (ZHP)

WHO ARE YOU!?

!!

GASHI (GRAB)

"

SHUT UP!!

GIRA (GLARE)

SHUT YOUR FUCKING MOUTH AND FOLLOW ME.

W...

DOKIN (BADUM)

ドクン

...a wild...

...Noah-sama...

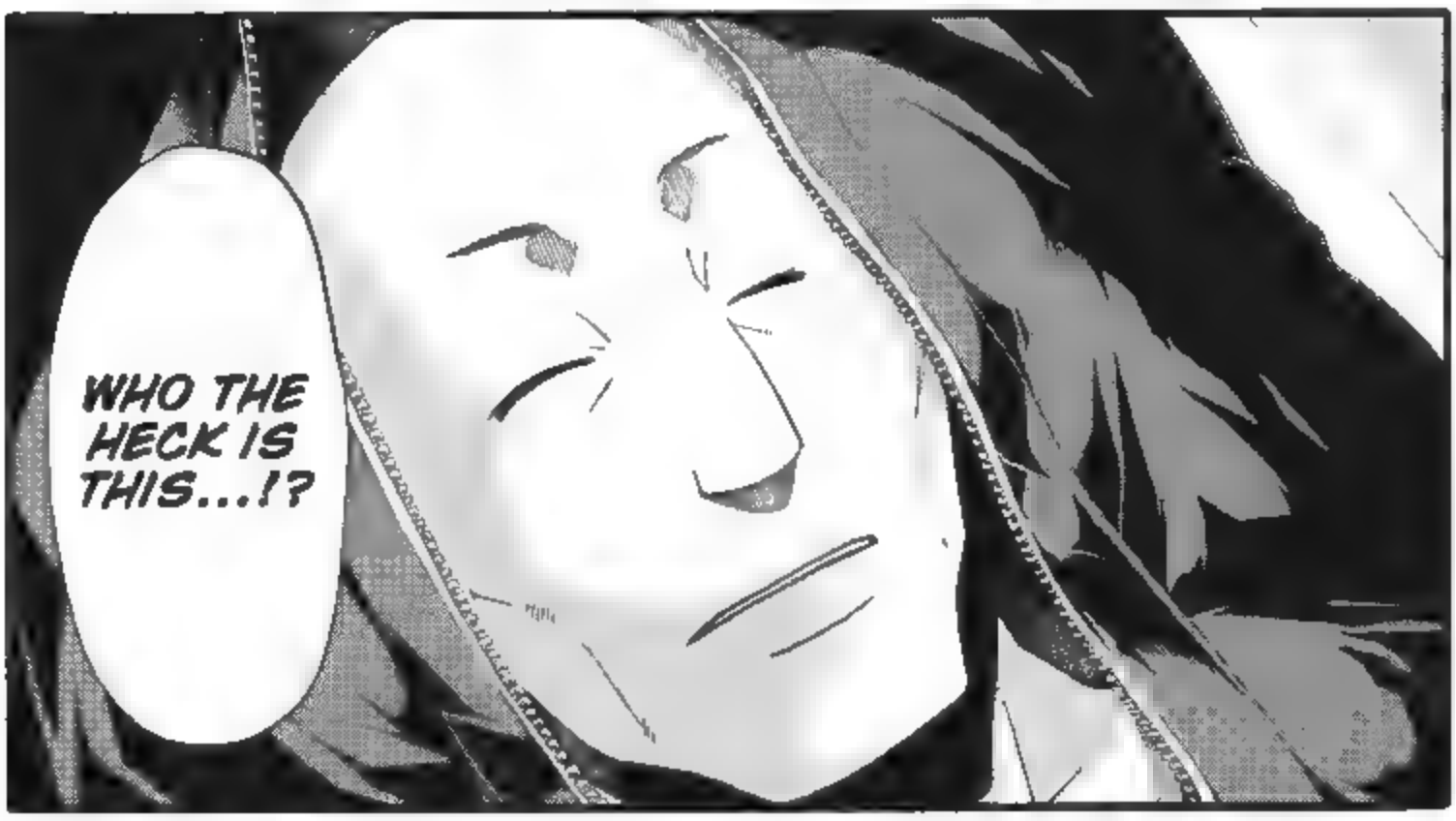
GARA (RATTLE) ガラ ガラ

I'M OPEN-ING IT UP.

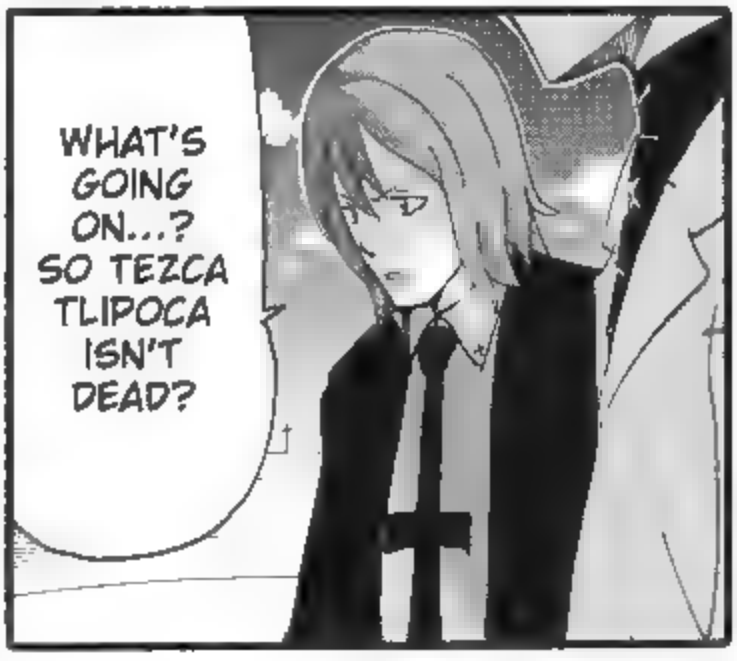
ジィィ (ZZZIP)

TEZCA TLIPOCA ...

!!


WHO THE HECK IS THIS...!?

NO... I KNOW WHAT I SAW...


WHAT'S GOING ON...? SO TEZCA TLIPOCA ISN'T DEAD?

WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD HE HAVE TO DECEIVE YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE? HE'S A DEATH WEAPON TOO, AFTER ALL...

ON THE OTHER HAND, TEZCA TLIPOCA IS A DEMON MIRROR...HIS SPECIALTY IS THE POWER OF ILLUSION— THE ABILITY TO REFLECT AND PROJECT IMAGES...

IT'S NOT INCONCEIVABLE. MAYBE HE FELL UNDER THE SPELL OF MADNESS... LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO JUSTIN...

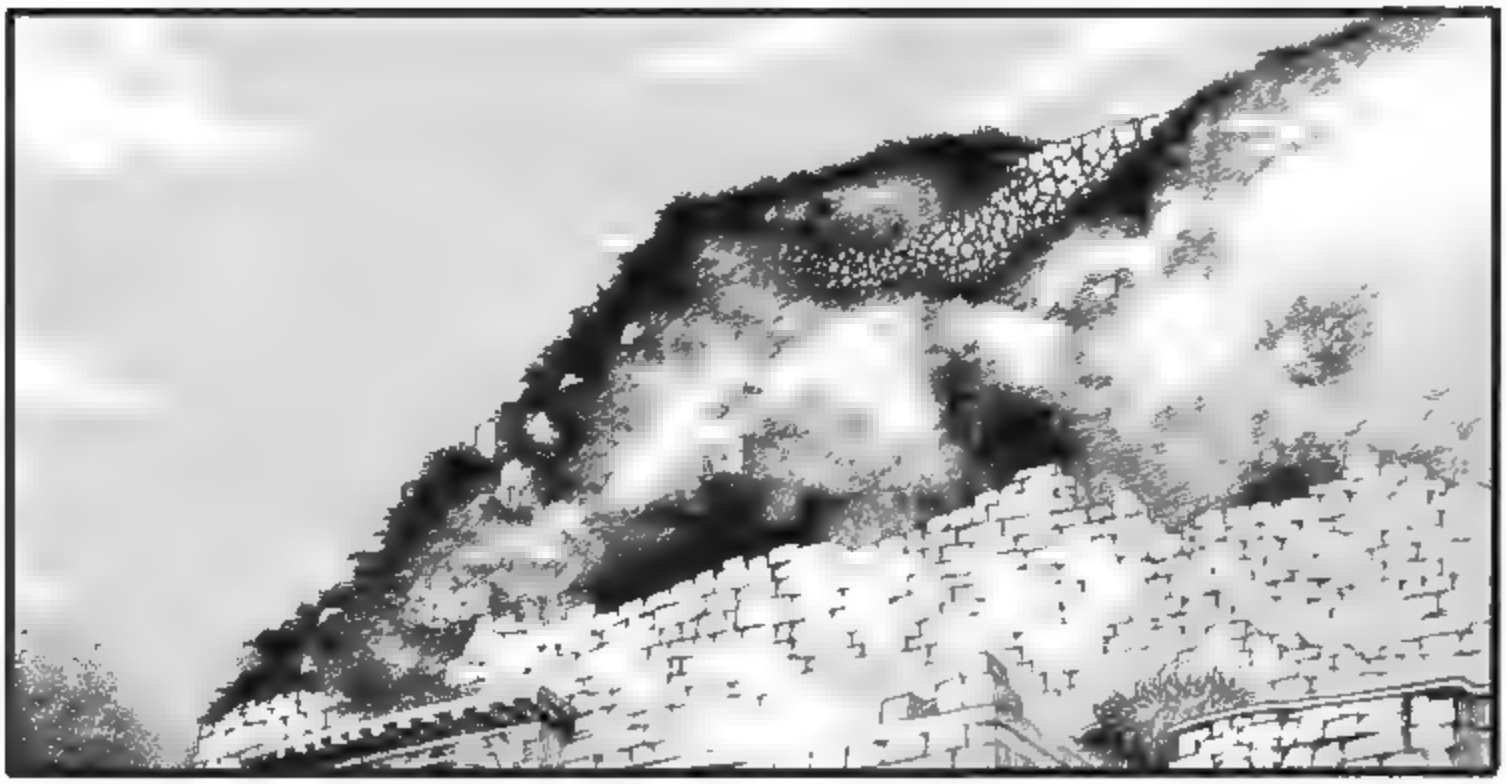
I THINK WHAT WE SAW MIGHT'VE BEEN AN *ACT*...

.....

SO DEATH WEAPONS ARE THAT WEAK, ARE THEY?

...I DON'T BELIEVE THAT FOR A MINUTE.

I DON'T KNOW TEZCA-SAN VERY WELL, BUT...



!!
JUSTIN KNOWS I CAN TRACK ANYONE WHO'S EVER BEEN REFLECTED IN MY MIRROR, SO UNLESS HE BELIEVED WITHOUT A DOUBT I WAS DEAD, HE NEVER WOULD'VE MADE A REAL MOVE.
I FEEL REALLY BAD FOR HAVING TO PULL THE WOOL OVER EVERYONE'S EYES LIKE THAT, BUT WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO.
PON (PWONK)

BUT HOW ELSE WAS I GONNA TAIL JUSTIN AND KNOW IT WAS A REAL LEAD? IT HAD TO BE DONE.

I KNOW I HAD TO DO IT... I JUST WISH I HADN'T HAD TO TRICK ENRIQUE TOO. IT WAS BAD ENOUGH OFFENDING SHINIGAMI-SAMA'S SENSE OF ORDER BY USING ANOTHER FRESH CORPSE AS A STAND-IN FOR MINE...

STILL, HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO DRAW ANY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO MYSELF. FROM NOW ON...

GAHO (WHUMP)

...I'M IN DIS-GUISE!!

MOSCOW

BA

BA

BA
(THUK)

YOU AREN'T FIT FOR THE BLACK BLOOD EXPERIMENT.

GNH
...

I HAVE TO DO WHAT MEDUSA-SAMA TOLD ME TO...

FUYO

FUYO
(BLOOP)

I HAVE TO CRUSH A DEATH WEAPON...

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP YOUR BLACK BLOOD.

WITHOUT IT, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THE KISHIN MINE TO DO WITH AS I PLEASE...

KEEP MOVING FORWARD, CRONA. YOU SHOULD SEE DWMA'S EASTERN EUROPEAN BRANCH JUST AHEAD...

SO HARDEN IT UP WITH ATTACKS THAT MAKE USE OF YOUR BLACK BLOOD DIRECTLY.

ARE YOU LISTENING, CRONA...? THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO HELP YOU DEVELOP YOUR BLACK BLOOD'S POTEN-TIAL...

AC-KNOWL-EDGED.

HE'S CLOSE.

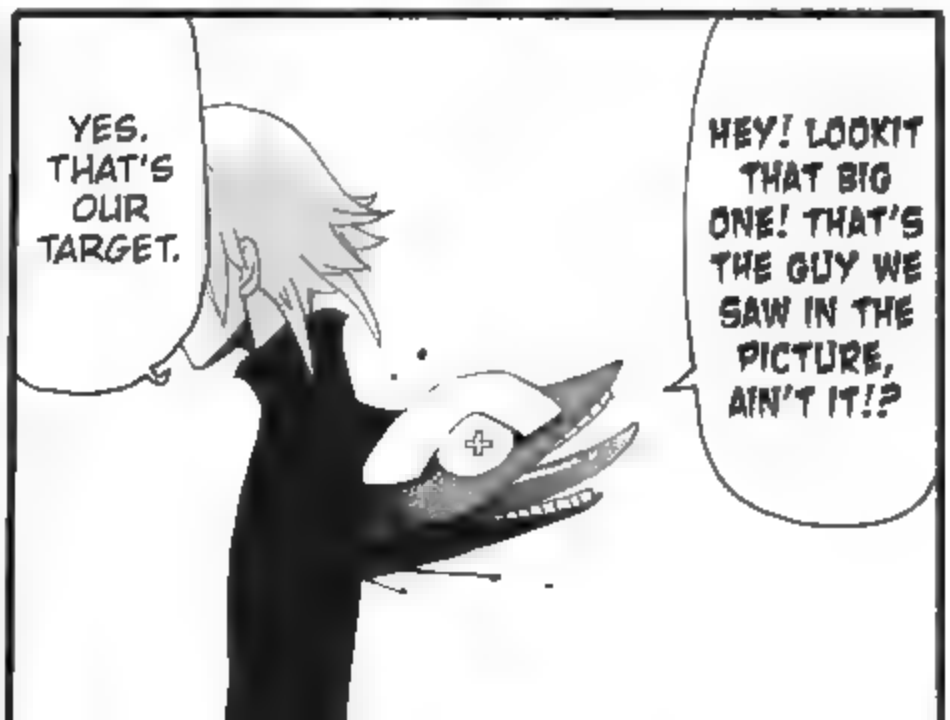
WHERE IS HE!? FEODOR ...?

ピキーン

PIKIN (TWINGE)

YES... I THINK HE MUST BE THE ONE.
YOU MEAN THAT LITTLE KID...?
.....

THAT'S THE DEATH WEAPON *TSAR PUSHKA.*
ピチィ
• PICHA (SPLITCH)


YES. THAT'S OUR TARGET.
HEY! LOOKIT THAT BIG ONE! THAT'S THE GUY WE SAW IN THE PICTURE, AIN'T IT!?

BEGINNING THE EX-PERIMENT NOW...

MAD-NESS FUSION.

HYU

HYU (PYOOM)

HI

BLOODY NEEDLE

...

BO

BO (BOOM)

DA (LEAP)

COMMAND COSSACK !!

YA BETTER NOT BE THINKIN' OF USIN' ME!

ZA (SKSH)

GAH (WHAM)

FA (FWOOP)

THIS GUY'S A DEATH WEAPON MEISTER ALL RIGHT...

ZA

ZA

ZA . . .

!!

nywka

BUN (VWOOMP)

DOZLIN (THWOMP)

BLOODY COAT.

AND I WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THE DEATHS OF MY COM-RADES.

I AM THE DEMON CANNON TSAR PUSHKA.

BUN (SHWOOM)

IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BLACK☆STAR, YOUR BLACK BLOOD ARMOR WAS SHATTERED... THAT SIMPLE BLOCKING MOVE YOU USED THIS TIME WAS A SMART CHOICE, CRONA.

!

PI (SLIT)

MY BLOOD IS BLACK.

SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 83: MAD BLOOD

пушка

OOOO (WHOOO)

MY BLOOD IS BLACK.

BA (LEAP)

HERE WE GO, FEODOR.

DA!!

GA

GA

GA (THWAP)

GA

GA

OOOO (FWOOOOSH)

BA (LEAP)

DON (THWOOM)

GO (SLAM)

SHIBA (SHWP)

GAN (THWAM)

GAKU (SLUMP)

BLRGH!

...BUT THE HITS AIN'T NEARLY AS HARD.

THIS GUY'S MOVES ARE AT BLACK STAR'S LEVEL...

BA (LEAP)

KOOOOOO (RRRUMBLE)

ON YOUR MARK

KA (FLASH)

GO (WHAM)

ZAZA (ZSKSH)

ZUDO (THWUD)

GO (BOOM)

ドドド

GYUPEE!! THE BLACK BLOOD!!

SHIT, THAT WAS ...!!

!!

SHUUU (FSHHH)

HE POSSESSES THE SAME ANTI-DEMON WAVELENGTH MAKA ALBARN HAS.

YOU'RE FIGHTING THE DEMON CANNON TSAR PUSHKA.

I NEED TO OVERCOME THIS OBSTACLE, OR MY BLACK BLOOD WILL NEVER BE PERFECTED...

THAT MUST BE THE REASON YOU PICKED HIM FOR THIS EXPERI-MENT.

I'LL STAIN HIM BLACK.

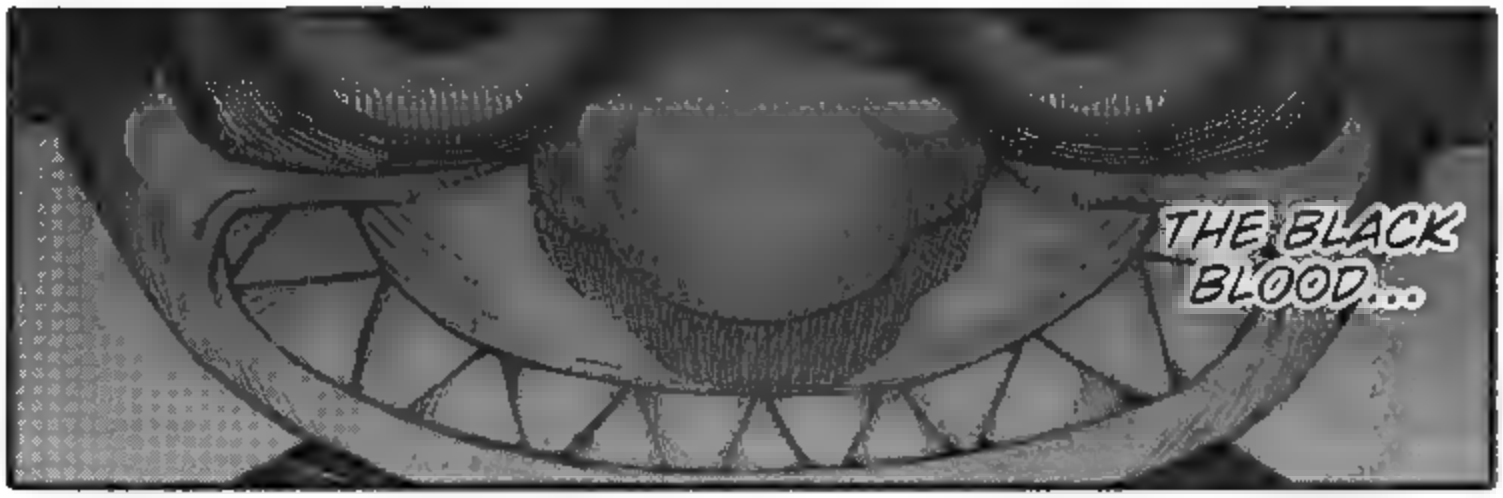
PO (DRIP)

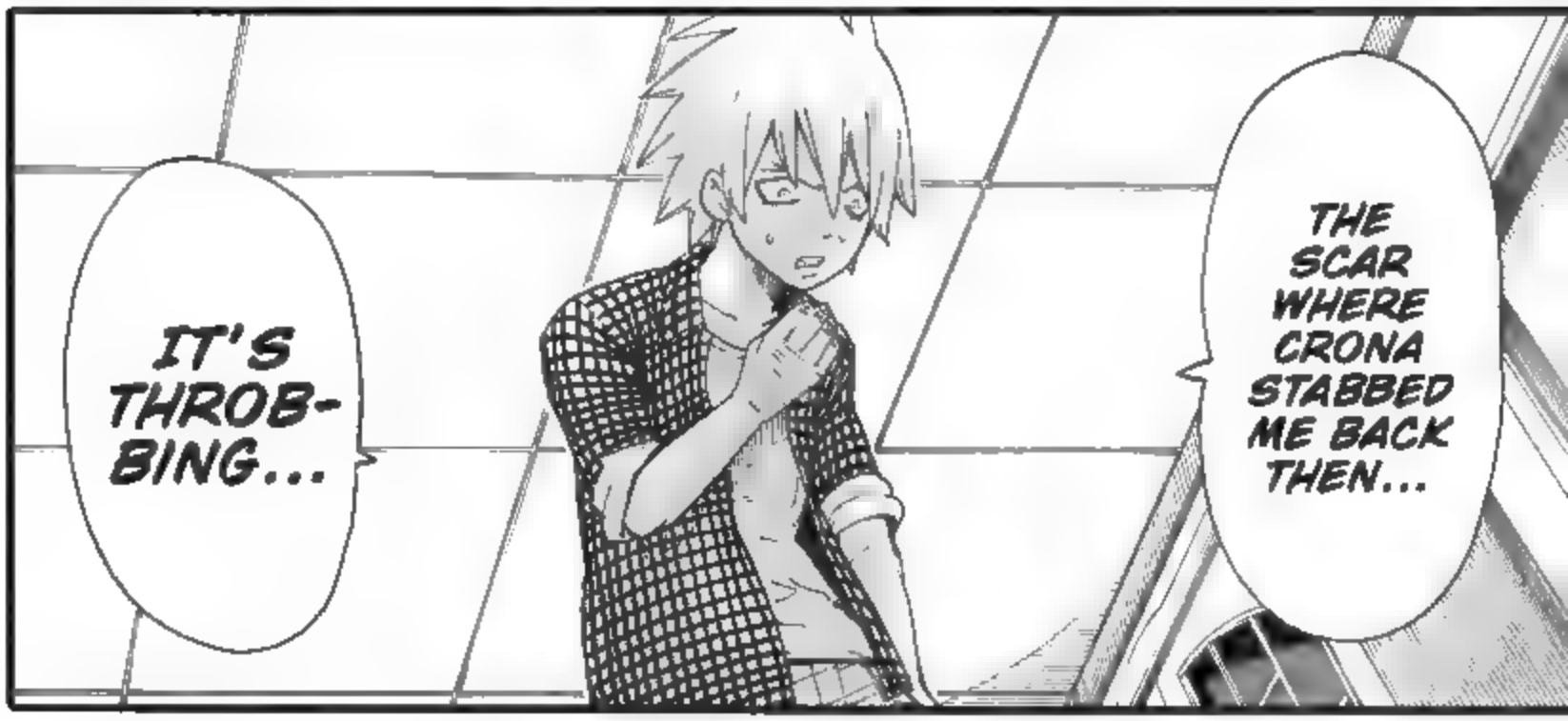
DOKU (THROB)

DEATH CITY

!!

WHAT'S THIS PAIN ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?


THE BLACK BLOOD...


IT'S THROB-BING...
THE SCAR WHERE CRONA STABBED ME BACK THEN...

BLOODY LANCE!
BU
BU
BU (BLOOSH)

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (THWP)
HERE IT COMES !!
GASH. (CLAMP)
DO
DO
DO
DA!!
FEO-DOR!!
SHUBA (SHHHP)

PURIFI-
CATION!

PERFECTION ACHIEVED THROUGH UNITY... I SUPPOSE THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING TO THIS WEAPON AND MEISTER BUSINESS...

BUT—

THAT ATTACK COMBINES THE PHYSICAL PROWESS OF THE MEISTER WITH THE ANTI-DEMON WAVELENGTH OF THE DEATH WEAPON...

HIN (FWEEM)

HIN

HIN

!!

I HAVE TO PAINT THE WHITE CANVAS BLACK...

HYURU (FWOOSH)

DO DO DO

DO DO DO

GASH! (KACHINK)

KUN (YANK)

DON (THWOOM)

FULL FORCE!!

ANTI-DEMON WAVE-LENGTH!

I'LL MAKE THAT LIGHT FILTHY BLACK!! I'LL STAIN IT!! STAIN IT PITCH-BLACK!! I'LL STAIN IT SO BLACK IT MASKS EVERY LAST RAY OF LIGHT!!

GO (RMBL)

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL!!? WHAT IS THAT LIGHT!!? SOME KIND OF ATTACK DIRECTED AT ME!!? I'M JET-BLACK AND YOU COME AT ME WITH THAT WHITE LIGHT!!!?

GO

GO

GO

SO HE WRAPS HIS ENTIRE BODY IN THE ANTI-DEMON WAVELENGTH HE GETS FROM TSAR PUSHKA, THEN FOLLOWS UP WITH A FULL-POWER BODY BLOW..

APPARENTLY HE INTENDS TO COMPLETELY EVAPORATE THE BLACK BLOOD AND CRONA ALONG WITH IT.

JET-BLACK.

I'M SO DEMONICALLY BLACK THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS STAIN EVERY-THING ELSE BLACK TOO...

EVEN THE LIGHT OF THAT SMILE...

DORURURURU (BURBLE)

FEODOR, BE CARE-FUL!!

(SHUDDER)

MAD
BLOOD

MY BLOOD IS BLACK.

JIRIRIRIRI (RRRRRRING)

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SOUL?

.....

HELLO? EATER-ALBARN RESIDENCE.

JIRIRIRI

.....

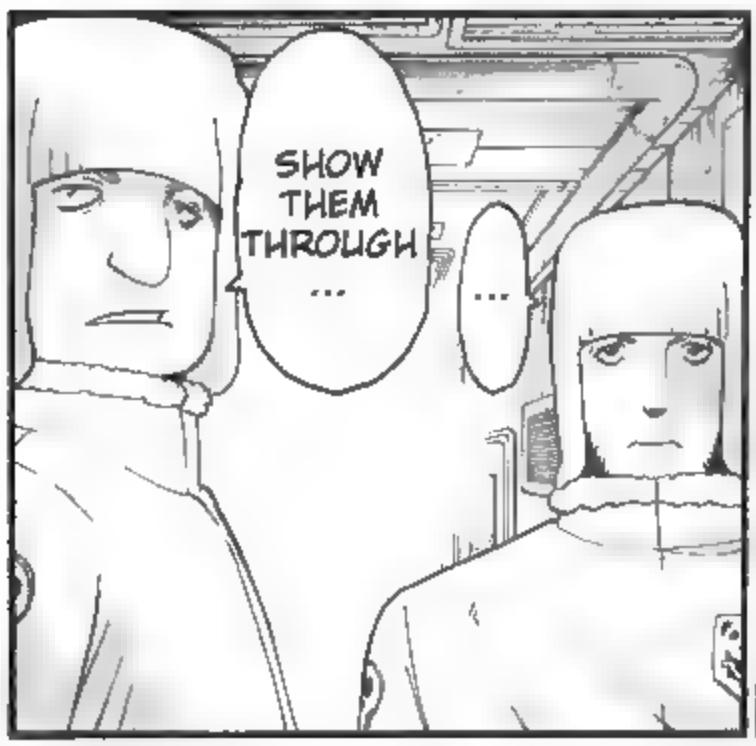
YES...

YES...

.....?

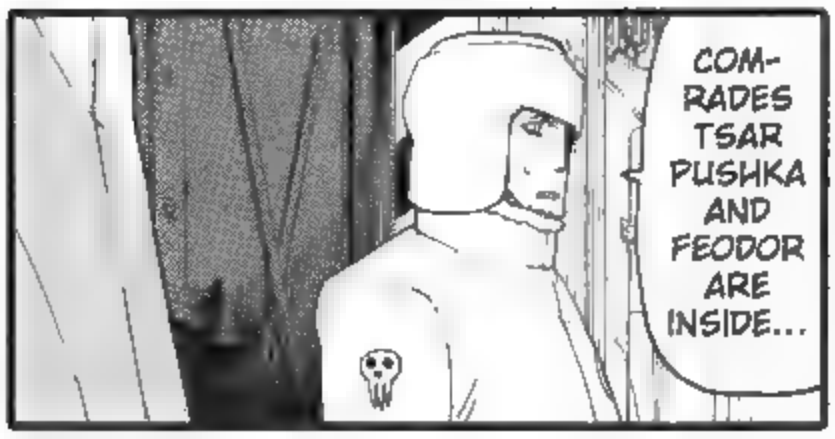
WHAT ...!?
CRONA DID WHAT IN MOSCOW ...!?

YES... WE'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS WE CAN...


SHOW THEM THROUGH ...
...

SIRS! DR. STEIN AND FOUR MEMBERS OF SPARTOI HAVE JUST ARRIVED FROM DWMA.

THESE KIDS ARE DIMA'S SO-CALLED "ELITE UNIT" . . .?


COM-RADES TSAR PUSHKA AND FEODOR ARE INSIDE...

IN HERE?

UNFORTU-
NATELY, THE
MEN WHO
CARRIED THEM
BACK HAVE
THEMSELVES
BEEN OVER-
COME BY MAD-
NESS...

SO THIS
GIRL'S
THE WITCH
KIM DIEHL,
HUH.....?
SHE...
SHE'S
CUTE...

YES,
SIR.

KIM, SEE
WHAT
YOU CAN
DO FOR
THESE
MEN.

I THINK
THIS
SHOULD
DO IT.

SHURU
(SLIP)

I'LL TRY
USING MY
REGENERA-
TION MAGIC
TO HEAL
THEM.

...DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GO IN THE ROOM BEYOND THESE DOORS?
MAKA, SOUL...

I'M REALLY SORRY TO DO THIS TO YOU, BUT EVEN FROM OUT HERE IT'S A LITTLE... DIFFICULT.
I'M AFRAID... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO REMAIN HERE.

MAD-NESS...

NONE, SIR.
WE HAVE ANTI-DEMON WAVELENGTHS. NOT STRONG, BUT ENOUGH.
YOU MEN ARE ALL RIGHT? ANY ILL EFFECTS?

GOGOGO (RRRUMBLE)
ゴゴゴ

SOUL... LET'S RESO-NATE.

WE'RE OPEN-ING THE DOORS ...

GOU (CREAK)

BLAO (VWOOSH)

WHAT AN INTENSE MADNESS WAVE-LENGTH...

GYU (SQUEEZE)

OOOOO (VWOOOO)

THOSE GLOBS ARE THE DEATH WEAPON AND HIS MEISTER...

WHAT... ARE THOSE ...?

oooo

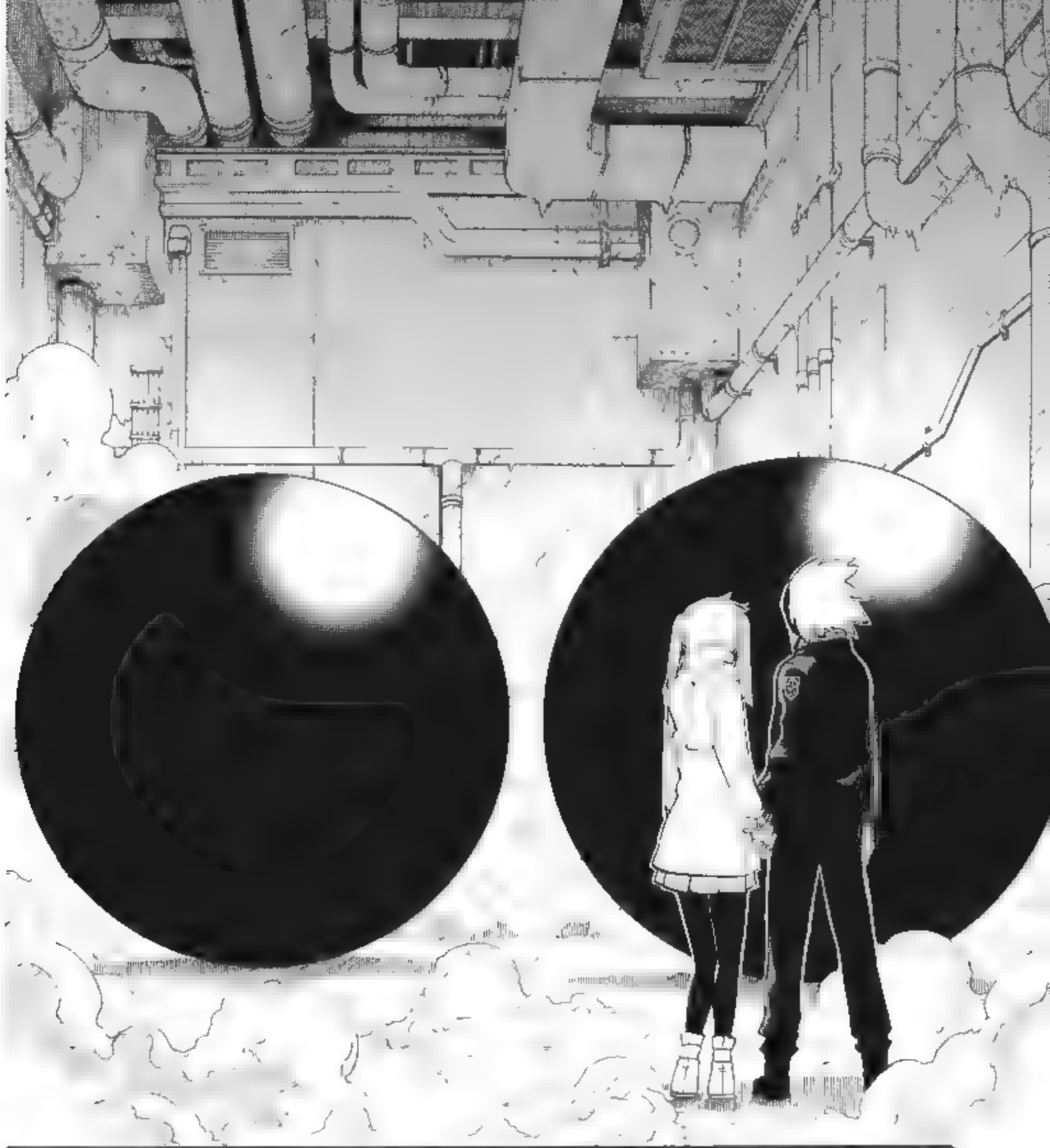
!!

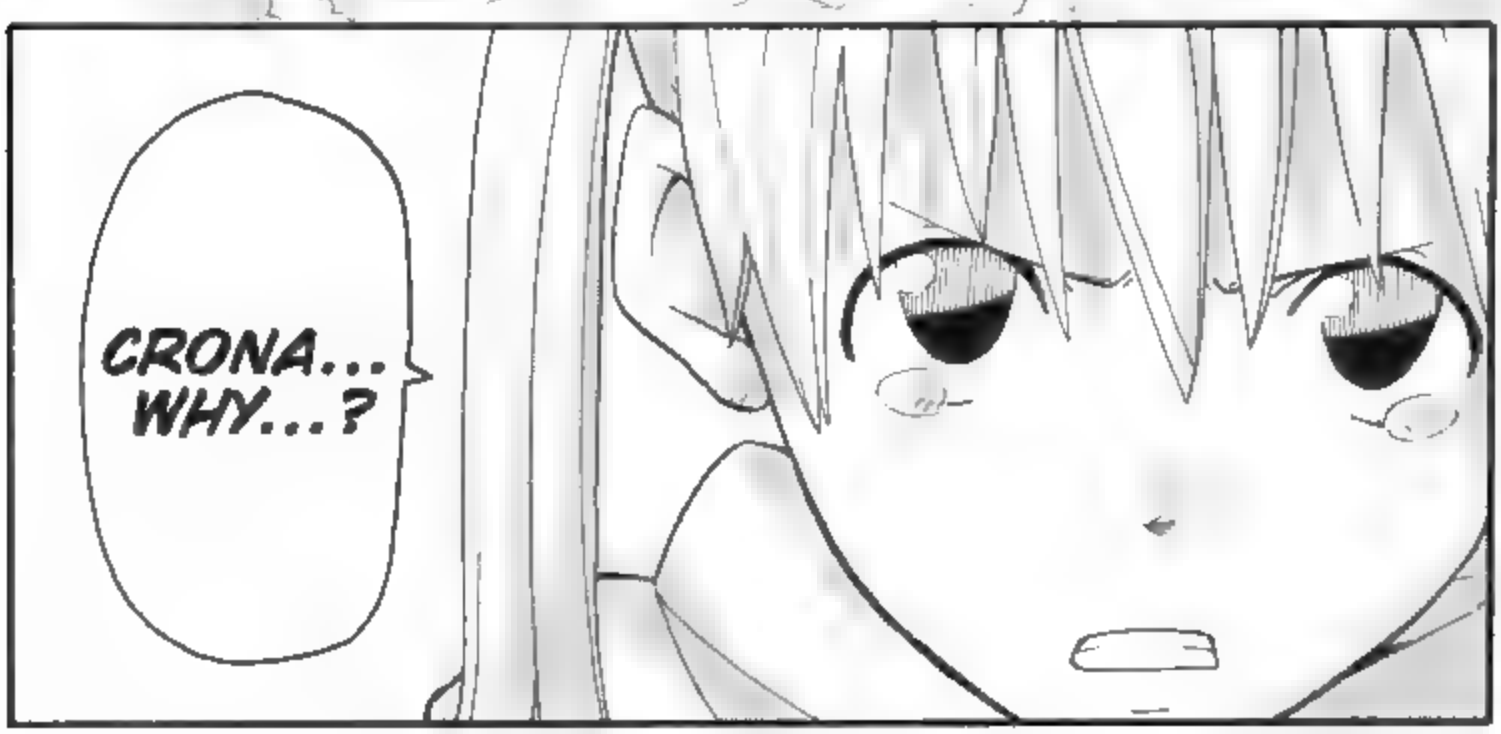
BURU

BURU (SHIMMY)

THIS IS WHAT BLACK BLOOD CAN REALLY DO...

HEE HEE HEE HEE!




CRONA...
WHY...?

KIIII (VWEEEEN)

I CAN SEE LIVING SOULS INSIDE... THERE ARE DEFINITELY PEOPLE IN THERE...

FJOO (WHOO)

SO THESE BLACK SPHERES ARE ACTUALLY EMITTING MADNESS...?

CAN WE BREAK THROUGH ...?

SHUBA (SHHHWP)

DEVIL-HUNT SLASH !!

WE CAN TRY.

GASHIN (GASHING)

STUPID CRONA!!

UNH... UUH...

WH- WHERE AM I...?

UNH ...!?

PO (BLINK)

I see you finally woke up.

NIKO (SMILE)

STILL NOTHING FROM MAKA AND SOUL...?

NO... AND IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THEY WENT IN THERE...

ZUI CLOOMO

AH—

I'LL REMOVE YOUR RESTRAINTS NOW, OKAY?

AW, COME ON...

CUT THE CUTESY STUFF. IT'S JUST GONNA CAUSE TROUBLE FOR EVERYBODY.

GUESS IT REALLY IS AS DIFFICULT AS I FEARED...

!!

THEY'RE BACK...

ガコン

GAKON (THNK)

GYUU (YANK)
!!

OOOOO (FWOOOO)
MY FUCK-ING SCAR ...
... FUCK-ING HURTS ...

DA
CLING

THE SECOND HE TOUCHED THAT BLACK SPHERE, HE JUST—

SOUL, KNOCK IT OFF!

I HURRIED!

SOUL EATER

IT'S HERE...

HA HA!

A STORM SO HUGE EVEN A WEATHER-CASTER COULDN'T HAVE PREDICTED IT! IT'S HERE!!

I'M NOT JUST GOING TO RUIN YOUR REPUTATION, OH NO.

I AM GOING TO SCREW UP YOUR LIFE SOME-THING AWFUL.

ISN'T THAT HOW IT GOES?

SO WHAT AM I? WHAT AM I TO YOU?

AM I SCARING YOU YET? REALLY SCARING YOU?

SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 84: RECOVERY

KOOOOO (WHOOO)

I'LL BE USING JACQUE-LINE.

KIM, FALL BACK.

PROFES-SOR...

...ROGER...

R...

THE WOUND HE GOT FROM CRONA WAY BACK WHEN HAS REOPENED, AND MADNESS IS GUSHING OUT...

OOOO (FWHOOO)

SOUL, YOU IDIOT!! WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU!!?

I'VE BEEN HOLDING IT IN THIS WHOLE TIME... NOW IT'S ERUPTING OUT...

NOT A QUESTION OF WHAT'S "WRONG" WITH ME OR "RIGHT" WITH ME... I TOLD YOU, IT HURTS...

GOOOO (RRRUMBLE)

BJO (VWOOM)

HERE HE COMES.

I'M READY.

JARA (JANGLE)

KURU (TWIRL)

GAN (SLAM)

NITA (SNEER)

DOSHA (THWAM)

AHH!

PU

!!

PU (SPLRT)

JACKIE !!

SO THIS IS ME... THIS IS THE POWER OF A DEATH WEAPON...

I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D GET SO OUT OF HAND...

I'M SORRY. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HE'S ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL IN TERMS OF WEAPON ABILITIES.

...OR SO FASCINATING. MAKES ME WANT TO DISSECT HIM.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...!?

SHIT... WHAT'S GOING ON?

BURU

BURU

BURU (TRMBL)

BURU

BURU

BURU

YOUR BLOOD HAS FINALLY STARTED ACTING UP.

YOU JUST GOT HONEST, THAT'S ALL.

THIS ISN'T ME, AND YOU KNOW IT.

YOU'RE FULL OF IT.

FEELS UNBE-LIEVABLY GOOD, DOESN'T IT...?

YOU'VE GONE OFF THE DEEP END, MY BOY.

JUST WHAT KIND OF GUY ARE YOU, HMM?

ALL RIGHT, THEN TELL ME: WHAT ARE YOU?

EH? I'M FULL OF IT?

DON'T CHANGE THE SUB-JECT, PEE-WEE! JUST ANSWER THE QUES-TION, YOU USELESS RUNT!

BASTARD... SINCE WHEN DID YOU GROW ALL BIG ON ME?

WHO ARE YOU?

HIN

HIN (SHWING)

TAN (HOP)

TAN

I'LL HAVE TO STOP THE ATTACKS AT THE SOURCE.

I CAN'T HOPE TO BLOCK THESE WITH JACQUE-LINE...

HIIIII
CHWEEEND

...!!

THIS IS...!

IT'S SOUND ...!!

HE'S ACTUALLY PROPAGATING THE MADNESS THROUGH SOUND... TRYING TO DRAG US IN...

!!

BOFU (BWOOMF)

GYUUU (HUG)

BESIDES, WHEN ELSE AM I EVER GONNA GET THE CHANCE TO HUG THE PROFESSOR LIKE THIS!

POWAWAWA (GLOWWW)

I'M USING MY MAGIC TO THIN OUT THE MADNESS INSIDE STEIN-SENSEI.

WHOA, KIM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

DAKI (GLOMP)

YEAH, I STILL DON'T SEE HOW THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO HUG HIM...

DUDE IS SO LUCKY...

ER, YOU GIRLS ARE KINDA IN THE WAY...

IF HE FALLS COMPLETELY TO MADNESS, SOUL'S GONNA END UP A PILE OF BODY PARTS...

IT'S SORTA HARD TRANS-FERRING IT TO ANOTHER MEISTER, BUT I'LL TRY TO HELP AS MUCH AS I CAN WITH MY ANTI-DEMON WAVE-LENGTH.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE TO ADMIT, THIS IS SOMEWHAT SOOTHING ...

GYAN (FWANG)

A KEY-BOARD ON HIS SCYTHE BLADE!?

PON (POP)

SOUND AGAIN...!?

PAN (BAM)

SO HE'S USING THE IMPACT OF SOUND WAVES AS AN ATTACK...

IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH SOUND HE CAN FLING AT US ON HIS OWN...

ZA

ZA

ZA (SKID)

!

MAKA...I THINK IT'S POSSIBLE YOUR SOUL PERCEPTION ABILITIES MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN A BOOST THROUGH YOUR RESONANCE WITH SOUL AS WELL.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

...SOUL?

WELL, OBVIOUSLY, PROFESSOR. IT'S A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT THE TWO OF US HAVE BEEN BOOSTING ONE ANOTHER'S ABILITIES FROM THE VERY BEGIN-NING.

PAN

PAN (BAM)

PAN

KYU

KYU (SQUIK)

HEY, WHO'S HEAVY ...!?

WOW, PROFESSOR. NICE JOB DODGING WITH A HEAVY PERSON IN EACH ARM.

ZA

ZA

MAKA... WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON WITH SOUL'S SOUL RIGHT NOW?

UM... WELL, HE HASN'T FALLEN COMPLETELY TO THE MADNESS YET. I CAN TELL THAT MUCH.

SOUL'S STILL FIGHTING DEEP DOWN INSIDE HIS SOUL...

HE'LL COME BACK TO US. I KNOW IT.

GOGOGOGOGOGO (RRRRUMBLE)

ALL THE WHILE MAKING EXCUSES... SAYING IT'S "DISCI-PLINE"...

YOU HOLD IT IN AND ENDURE... TRYING TO HOLD BACK THE BLACK BLOOD, TRYING TO HOLD BACK THE MAD-NESS.

THAT'S HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN FOR YOU...

YOU'RE SCARED OF PLAYING FOR KEEPS. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

YOU'RE SCARED OF PUTTING YOURSELF OUT THERE AND BEING JUDGED. THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?

.....

HELL, YOU SAID IT YOUR-SELF—

EVEN WHEN YOU EAT, IT'S NEVER TILL YOU'RE FULL.

IN EVERY-THING YOU DO, YOU ALWAYS HOLD BACK.

HERE YOU ARE, BORN INTO A MUSICAL FAMILY, BUT YOU COULDN'T BE AS GOOD AS WES... NEVER WOULD BE...

BUT DID ANYONE EVER ACTUALLY TELL YOU THAT? I DON'T THINK SO.

YOU'RE JUST RUNNING SCARED. BECAUSE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU LAID IT ALL ON THE LINE AND STILL COULDN'T MEASURE UP TO HIM, RIGHT? YOUR WHOLE "COOL" ACT WOULD FLY STRAIGHT OUT THE WINDOW

THAT'S WHY YOU HIDE THE "EVANS" NAME, ISN'T IT? SCARED OF HURTING THE FAMILY REPUTATION?

YOU ALWAYS WANT TO GIVE YOURSELF A WAY OUT. YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL PEOPLE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT REALLY TRYING.

YOU WANT THAT EXCUSE, DON'T YOU? THAT ESCAPE ROUTE? IT'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT.

WELL, HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO KEEP RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES, YOU GODDAMN GAZELLE?

BUT HOW DOES IT FEEL NOW, HUH? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LAY IT ALL OUT THERE FOR A CHANGE?

THIS IS WHAT POWER IS.

YOU THINK IT'S BRAVE TO BE SO FEARFUL OF THE MADNESS THAT YOU FEEL YOU HAVE TO HOLD IT BACK NO MATTER WHAT? GIMME A BREAK.

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP THE MAD BLOOD WITH A LIMP ATTITUDE LIKE THAT, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMING.

MADNESS ISN'T SOME-THING YOU HOLD BACK! IT'S SOME-THING YOU TAKE HOLD OF! SO DO IT!!

SO GROW A PAIR AND CALL UP THE DEMON INSIDE YOU!!

SO I'LL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME: WHO ARE YOU?

START PLAY-ING FOR KEEPS !!

I AL-READY KNOW.

TCH.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

YOU NEVER ACTUALLY GREW, DID YOU? IT'S JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR TRICKS.

!!

HUH?

SUTA (THMP)

IT'S THE RESULT OF YOUR FINALLY FACING THE MADNESS WITHOUT FEAR.

NOT QUITE. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THIS ONE HAPPEN.

THE REASON I DROPPED "EVANS" FROM MY NAME WASN'T BECAUSE I WAS TRYING TO RUN FROM ANYTHING. IT WAS TO DRAW A LINE.

AND BY THE WAY, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

ALL RIGHT, FINE. BUT WHO. ARE. YOU?

I'M THE DEMON SCYTHE SOUL EATER.

PUT A LITTLE FLAIR IN IT, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. IT'S YOUR NAME— TRY SAYING IT WITH SOME GUSTO.

WELL, THAT JUST SUCKED. TALK ABOUT ANTICLI-MACTIC.

THE MADNESS JUST STOPPED OOZING FROM HIS SCAR...!

WELL, SORRY YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT. BUT NOT BEING ABLE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT IS ALSO PART OF WHO I AM.

!!

.....

TOSU (KONK)

'COS YOU'RE TRYING TO ACT ALL COOL NOW THAT THE MADNESS HAS SUB-SIDED.

OWW!! WHAT THE HELL'D YOU DO THAT FOR!!?

RAISE THE THREAT LEVEL OF THE BLACK GLOBES FROM "A" TO "S" AND LOCK DOWN THIS RUSSIA BRANCH!

ORDER A FULL EVAC OF THE FACILITY!

YES, SIR!

THIS ONE'S FOR PULLING MY PIGTAIL!!

THAT'S NO REASON TO HIT ME!

THEN WHAT'S THE KICKING FOR!?

BOKA

SUKA

BOKA (BOP)

SUKA (SMAK)

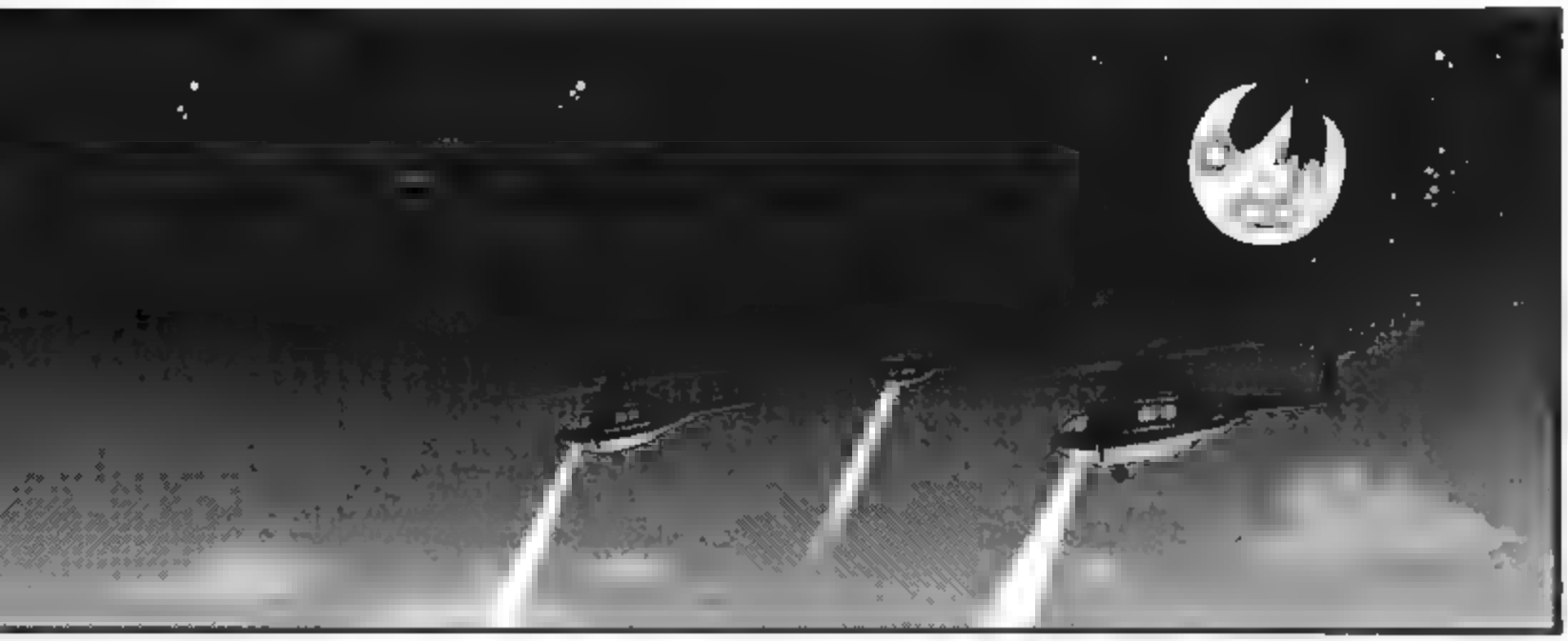
ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE DEMON SWORD HAS BEEN SEEN THERE...!

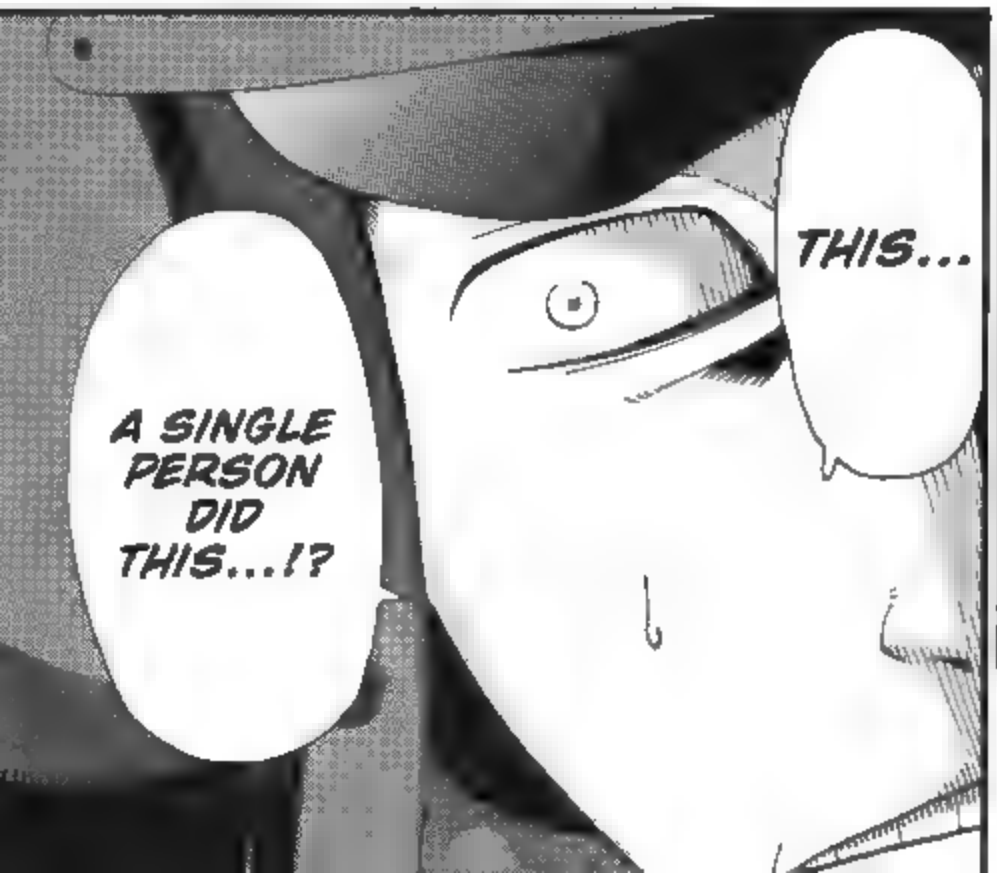
SIR, WE HAVE A SITUA-TION!! IT'S IN UKRAINE... A TOWN IN UKRAINE ...!!

TA

TA (TMP)

CRONA ...!?





SOUL EATER

THIS BLACK SPHERE MUST BE WHAT THE HOLY KISHIN-SAMA REACTED TO.

SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 85: PURSUIT

SUI (SHLLLP)

THE SPHERE IS DEFINITELY BLACK BLOOD.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I KNOW OF TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ALSO HAVE BLACK BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH THEIR VEINS...

ALL OF KISHIN-SAMA'S BLOOD WAS DRAINED BEFORE HE WAS SEALED AWAY

THAT SEAL WAS ONLY BROKEN WHEN KISHIN-SAMA WAS INJECTED WITH THE SO-CALLED "BLACK BLOOD" CREATED BY THE WITCH MEDUSA

I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT'S WHY KISHIN-SAMA REACTED TO THIS BLACK GLOBE— BECAUSE THE SAME BLACK BLOOD IS IN HIM

INDEED ...

THIS WAS CLEARLY THE WORK OF THE DEMON SWORD.

THE RESULT WAS THE INTEGRATION OF BOTH THE WEAPON AND ITS MEISTER INTO ONE BODY.

...AND THEN POURED INTO THE BODY OF A YOUNG CHILD.

THE DEMON SWORD RAGNAROK WAS MELTED DOWN AND MIXED IN WITH THE BLACK BLOOD...

I SAW THE INTERNAL REPORTS WHEN I WAS AT DWMA.

OH, HOW I'D LOVE TO **EXE-CUTE** HIM...

BUT COMPARED TO WHAT I READ ABOUT IN THOSE REPORTS...

...THAT CHILD'S POWER HAS *GROWN* IMMENSELY.

WITH A "SHHHP."

SHU (SHHHP)

IF WE LEAVE HER TO HER OWN DEVICES, SHE WILL MOST CERTAINLY BECOME A THREAT

MEDUSA IS TARGETING KISHIN SAMA...

I THINK MAYBE YOU FORGOT, PAL—YOU'RE STILL BEING PURSUED YOURSELF.

"SHALL WE PURSUE THEM"...? THAT'S RICH.

ZU (ZHK)

SHALL WE PURSUE THEM?

!!

-DA-
DOOMP
-DOOMP
-DOOMP
-DOOMP

KURU (WHIP)

CHIN (TAP)

YOU... TEZCA TLIPOCA ...

I MUSTA CHANGED DISGUISES AT LEAST TWO OR THREE TIMES ON THE WAY... I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SAW THROUGH ME...

YOU'RE ONE CRAFTY BAS-TARD...

SERI-OUSLY!? HOW'D YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?

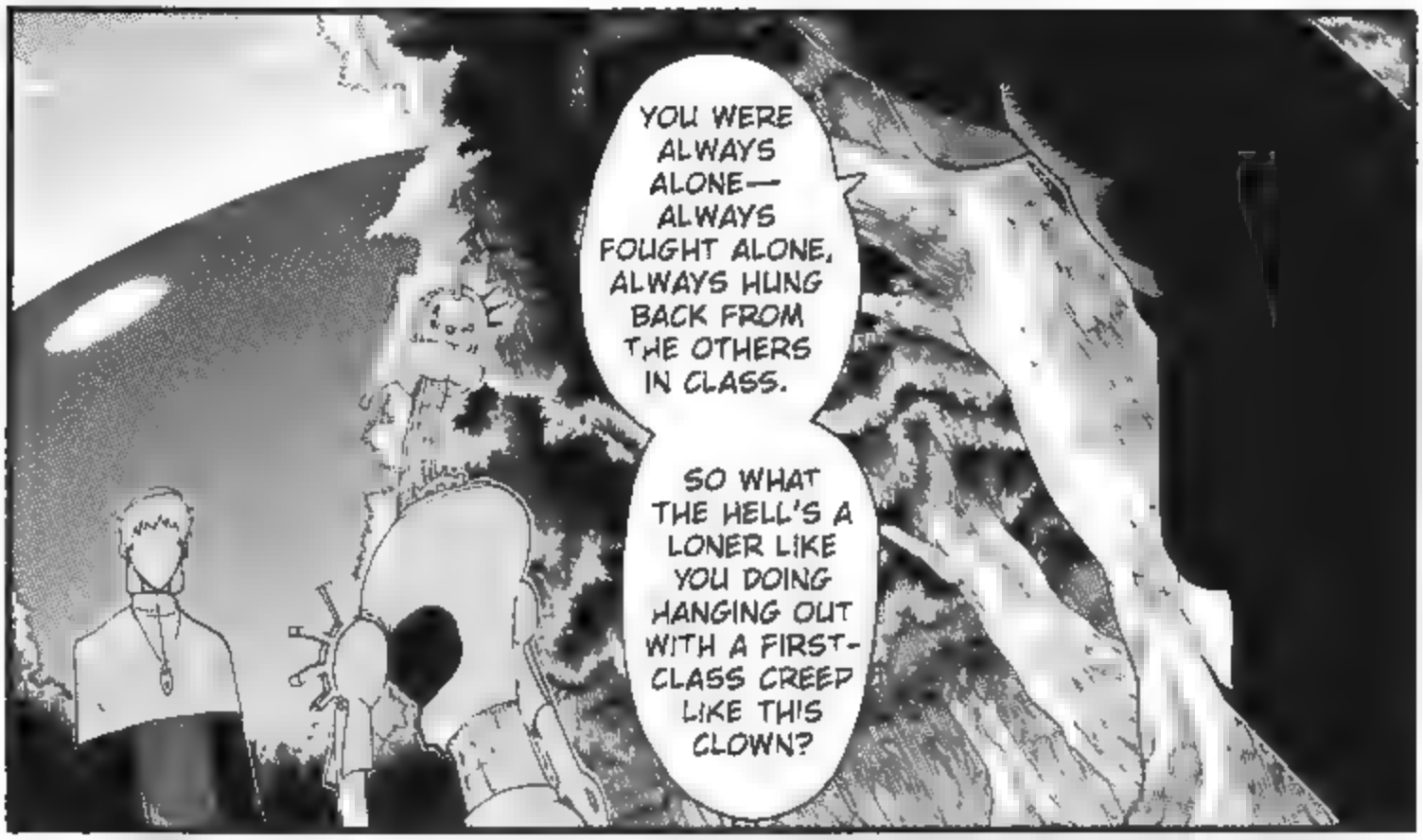
AND. THAT'S EVERY-THING HE SAID, JUSTIN

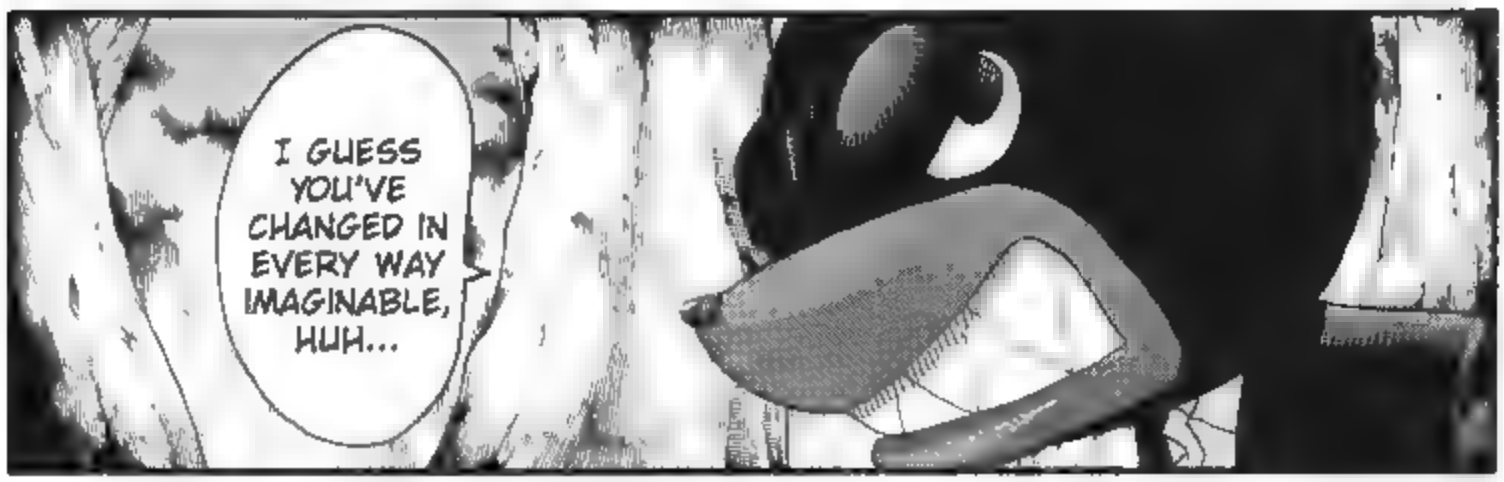
I CAME TO STOP YOU IN YOUR TRACKS, JUSTIN LAW.

MY FAITH IN THE HOLY KISHIN-SAMA CANNOT BE STOPPED. BY YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE.

STOP ME IN MY TRACKS?

JUST WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE STOPPING?


YOU WERE ALWAYS ALONE— ALWAYS FOUGHT ALONE, ALWAYS HUNG BACK FROM THE OTHERS IN CLASS.
SO WHAT THE HELL'S A LONER LIKE YOU DOING HANGING OUT WITH A FIRST-CLASS CREEP LIKE THIS CLOWN?


I GUESS YOU'VE CHANGED IN EVERY WAY IMAGINABLE, HUH...

AND I KNOW YOU'RE ABLE TO TRACK ANYONE WHO'S EVER BEEN REFLECTED IN YOUR MIRROR...
...WHICH MEANS YOU MUST KNOW WHERE I'VE BEEN.

I CAN'T READ YOUR LIPS WHEN YOU'RE WEARING THAT MASK, SO I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING TO ME...
...BUT YOU'RE HERE, SO APPAR-ENTLY YOU SURVIVED SOMEHOW.

YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?

YOU KNOW THE HOLY KISHIN-SAMA'S WHERE-ABOUTS?

IT'S TRUE I KEPT TRACKING YOUR SOUL AS FAR AS I COULD...

...BUT I LOST YOUR TRAIL IN THE STRANG-EST PLACE...

BUT YEAH, I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHERE HE IS.

IF IT'S EVEN POSSI-BLE...

!

PO (POP)

PO

TEZCA-SAN, YOU ARE NOW A THREAT TO THE HOLY KISHIN-SAMA'S REST.

WELL, I'LL BE. FINALLY TAKING OUT YOUR EAR-PHONES, HUH?

=DA-DOOMP=
=DOOMP=
=DOOMP=
=DOOMP=

NO, YOU HAVE IT ALL WRONG.

IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON HEARING YOUR FINAL DYING SCREAMS THIS TIME.

IT'S FOR THAT REASON ALONE THAT I'M LEAVING MY EARS WIDE OPEN.

SO YOU FINALLY FEEL LIKE LISTENING TO WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY.

MAD-NESS FUSION.

CLOWN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ON PILING ONE CRIME ONTO ANOTHER!!

STOP! I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

CRIME?

SHUI (SHHHP)

BAA (BOOM)

AND WHAT IS "CRIME" !?

GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY!!

KIRA (SPARKLE)

キラ

KIRA

キラ

COPIES FROM MIRROR REFLEC-TIONS, HUH.

THEN I'LL KEEP ON SLICING TILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU IS GONE!

BUOOO (VWOOP)
ブォォォ

BAA (THRUST)

!

SUPA (SLICE)

JAKI (KACHAK)
ジャキ

ONE.

ZUBA (ZWOOP)

TWO.

THREE.

DO

DO

DO

DO

DO (THD)

I'LL BLAST EVERY LAST SHARD AWAY!

GYA (VWOOM)

GYUMU (WHOOM)

JUST ONE LEFT.

!?

DOSHA (SHLICE)

GASHA (GASHUNK)

THAT WAS THE LAST.

SO IS THERE A DEAD BODY SOME-WHERE IN THIS PILE OF PARTS...?

ZURU

ズル・・・

ZURU (SKRCH)

ズルooo

MOZO

MOZO (WRIGGLE)

モゾ

モゾ

THE BODY PARTS ARE PULLING THEM-SELVES TOGETHER AGAIN!?

!!

WHAT THE...?

SOUL EATER

"DWMA SIEZES CONTROL OF BAGHDAD."

"DWMA FORCES STORMED INTO BAGHDAD, LONG SUSPECTED OF PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR TO THE KISHIN, BUT THE KISHIN WAS NOT FOUND WITHIN THE AREA.

"THE CITY OF BAGHDAD HAS BEEN HOME TO VARIOUS ANTI-DWMA FACTIONS"...

.....

PATA (FLIP)

SOUL EATER

CHAPTER 86: HELLFIRE

ANY "JUSTICE" TAKEN TOO FAR IS ITS OWN EVIL. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN EVEN JUSTICE CAN DRIVE PEOPLE TO MADNESS.

I MEAN, IT LOOKS REALLY BAD. I WOULDN'T BLAME PEOPLE FOR THINKING OUR SOLE OBJECTIVE FROM THE START WAS TO GO IN AND CRUSH THE CITY'S ANTI-DWMA RESISTANCE GROUPS.

THERE WAS NO PROOF THEY WERE EVER HIDING THE KISHIN FROM US.

WE'RE IMPOSING OUR OWN WILL ON OTHER PEOPLES WITHOUT JUST CAUSE. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY ANTI-DWMA FACTIONS ARE ACTIVE IN BAGHDAD—I STILL DON'T THINK THAT GIVES US THE RIGHT TO GO IN AND TAKE OVER THE CITY LIKE THAT.

WE HAVE TO FIND THE KISHIN...

BAGHDAD BROUGHT THIS UPON THEMSELVES. THEY REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST TO SEARCH FOR THE KISHIN.

I KNOW IT WAS HEAVY-HANDED, BUT WE COULDN'T VERY WELL JUST PACK UP AND GO WITHOUT MAKING EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO FIND THE KISHIN.

I KNOW... AND I KNOW FATHER DOESN'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF PLAYING IT SAFE ANY-MORE...

AND, YA KNOW...

...I REALLY, REEEALLY THOUGHT THAT'S WHERE HE WAS.

INSTEAD OF STANDING HERE COMPLAINING, I SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM...

TALK IS CHEAP, AND EVERYBODY'S GOT SOME CRITICISM TO DISH OUT...

FATHER, I'M GOING TO LOST ISLAND.

I MAY BE ABLE TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE KISHIN FROM HIM.

EIBON IS ALSO ONE OF THE GREAT OLD ONES...

EIBON?

EX-ACTLY.

GUCHA (CRCHNK)

GUCHA

GUCHA

GUCHA

GUCHA

GUCHA

BI (JAB)

SO ARE YOU!!

YOU'RE A MON-STER.

IF YOU WERE TO GO TO SHINIGAMI-SAMA RIGHT NOW AND HAND OVER ALL THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE ABOUT THE KISHIN, EVEN THOUGH WE BOTH KNOW YOU WOULDN'T GET OFF WITHOUT SOME PUNISHMENT...

RIGHT NOW... THE WHOLE OF DWMA IS ALL WHIPPED UP INTO A FRENZY LOOKING FOR THE KISHIN.

BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOURSELF TURN INTO A REAL MONSTER.

...I'M SURE HE'D AT LEAST THINK ABOUT GIVING YOU A REDUCED SENTENCE.

...

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO COME BACK TO DWMA AS A FRIEND INSTEAD OF AN ENEMY.

BUT YOU...

'COS I HAD ENRIQUE.

WHY ARE YOU SO FIXATED ON ME?

ENRIQUE'S JUST A MONKEY.

THERE WAS NO WAY SHINIGAMI-SAMA COULD EVER GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEEDED IN THAT RESPECT

BUT A GOD'S JUST A CONCEPT. A LIFESTYLE CHOICE. A GOD AIN'T NO FRIEND.

MAN, YOU WERE ALWAYS SO HUNG UP ON WORSHIPPING SHINIGAMI-SAMA LIKE HE WAS THE ONLY THING YOU COULD COUNT ON.

THAT'S WHY HE MADE YOU A DEATH WEAPON. THAT'S WHY HE PUT YOU IN A JOB THAT WAS ALL ABOUT EARNING OTHER PEOPLE'S TRUST.

YEAH, BUT AT LEAST I HAVE A MONKEY, YA STUPID JACKASS!

YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE A DAMN MONKEY FRIEND, SO YOU GOT NO ROOM TO JUDGE!!

AND ONE GOD'S AS GOOD AS THE NEXT—NEW DIRECTION, NEW GOD, NO PROBLEM. RIGHT?

YOU DON'T SEE IT, BUT YOU'RE THE MONKEY, BEING LED ALONG BY YOUR "FAITH."

TO A GUY LIKE YOU, SHINIGAMI-SAMA AND THE KISHIN PROBABLY SEEM LIKE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.

YOU BETRAYED THE TRUST SHINIGAMI-SAMA PLACED IN YOU.

BUT YOU DON'T LISTEN TO OTHER PEOPLE, MAN. YOU'RE DEAF TO EVERYONE AROUND YOU.

HELL, THAT AIN'T NO WAY FOR A MONKEY TO LIVE.

WELL, THAT AIN'T NO WAY FOR A PERSON TO LIVE.

WILL ENLIGHTEN-MENT EVENTUALLY JUST COME TO ME? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

SPEND YEARS QUESTIONING WHO I AM AND WHAT I'M HERE FOR?

HOLE UP IN THE MOUNTAINS AND CUT MYSELF OFF FROM EVERY-THING?

SO WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?

WE CHOOSE THE GOD WHO SUITS US AND GIVES US WHAT WE NEED, AND THEN WE LIVE HAPPILY WITH OUR CHOICE. WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH THAT!?

THERE'S NO TRUTH TO BE FOUND IN THIS WORLD.

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.

I TOOK OUT MY EARPHONES FOR YOU, BUT IT'S REALLY HARD TO HEAR YOUR MUMBLING THROUGH THAT BLACK PANTHER MASK!!

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY!?

THAT AIN'T WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY, YA THICK BAS-TARD!!!

I'M SAYIN' I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND !!

BA (LEAP)

.....

ZA (SKID)

ZA

ZA

TRY TAKING YOUR DAMN EAR-PHONES OUT!!

GA (SHLAM)

HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU WHEN I CAN'T EVEN READ YOUR LIPS!

YOU ARE SUCH A MORON!!

(VWOOOOO)

SOLAR RAY!

I THINK HE'LL ATTACK BY FOCUSING THE SUN'S LIGHT WITH HIS MIRROR...

I REMEMBER HOW DANGEROUS TEZCA TLIPOCA CAN BE IN THE DAYTIME!!

!!

CHI

CHI

CHI (FIZZT)

DORO
(DRIP)

SHIN
(SHWEEN)

YOU JUST GRAZED ME...

VERY WELL.

WHOOOO

EVEN NOW, AFTER ALL THIS, YOU STILL HOLD BACK.

YOU WILL REGRET NOT FINISHING ME OFF WITH THAT SHOT.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, JUSTIN.

I'M NOT RUNNING, AND I'M NOT HIDING.

YOU JUST FIRED AN INTENSELY HOT BEAM OF LIGHT... WHICH MEANS NOW I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REAL YOU AND ANY COPIES YOU MIGHT CREATE USING REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR MIRROR. THE HEAT WILL GIVE YOU AWAY.

BYU (FWP)

GASHI (CLAMP)

JUDGE

...I SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH.

FOR THE SIN OF CONDUCTING AN UNHOLY SEARCH FOR THE HOLY KISHIN-SAMA'S WHEREABOUTS...

IT'S NOT FOR HUMANS LIKE US TO DECIDE!!

"DEATH"!!? THAT'S SHINIGAMI-SAMA'S DOMAIN!!

GASHA (KASHINK)

I HAVE OBTAINED THE FREEDOM TO KILL WHOMEVER I CHOOSE! THE HOLY KISHIN-SAMA GRANTS ME THAT FREEDOM!

NOW DIE.

THE SACRED LAND OCCUPIED BY THE HOLY KISHIN-SAMA IS THE GREATEST LAND ON THE FACE OF THE WORLD!!! IT IS A LAND OF HOLY REPOSE!! IT IS A LAND THAT MAY NOT BE DEFILED BY PIGS OR FUCKING PIGS!! IT IS A PLACE OF REST!!

I WILL KILL!! I WILL KILL THEM ALL!! I WILL KILL EVERY-ONE WHO THREAT-ENS THEE, MY HOLY ONE!!

DEATH TO THE DIRTY DEATH-PIGS WHO SNEAK AND SNOOP AND ROOT AROUND WITH THEIR FILTHY SNOUTS!! THE PIGS!! THE PIGS!! THE FILTHY FUCKING PIGS!!

AAAAAA

STOP!! JUSTIN!!

I AM A SERVANT OF THY HOLY PEACE!! I AM THY PILLAR OF RIGHTEOUS-NESS!! I AM THY BLADE OF FAITH!!

IN THE NAME OF THE FEAR AND THE MAD-NESS—

LAW ABIII BABABA BAVABA

NOW TO CONFIRM THE ANNIHILATION OF THE SOUL.

DOSA (THWUMP)

BLI (BLRSH)

BLI

BLI

BLI

POOOON (SHLOOOP)

SURI (SHAKE)

スリスリ

GORO

ゴロー

GORO (ROLL)

♪

AND THAT THIS IS THE REAL TEZCA.

NICHAAA (SMIRK)

にちゃぁ

IT IS.

SOUL EATER

IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE STORY...

THERE WAS A STORY THAT I USED TO HAVE TO READ ALL THE TIME WHEN I WAS A KID...

"AND YOU CAN NEVER REALLY KNOW OTHER PEOPLE, AND THEY CAN NEVER REALLY KNOW YOU."

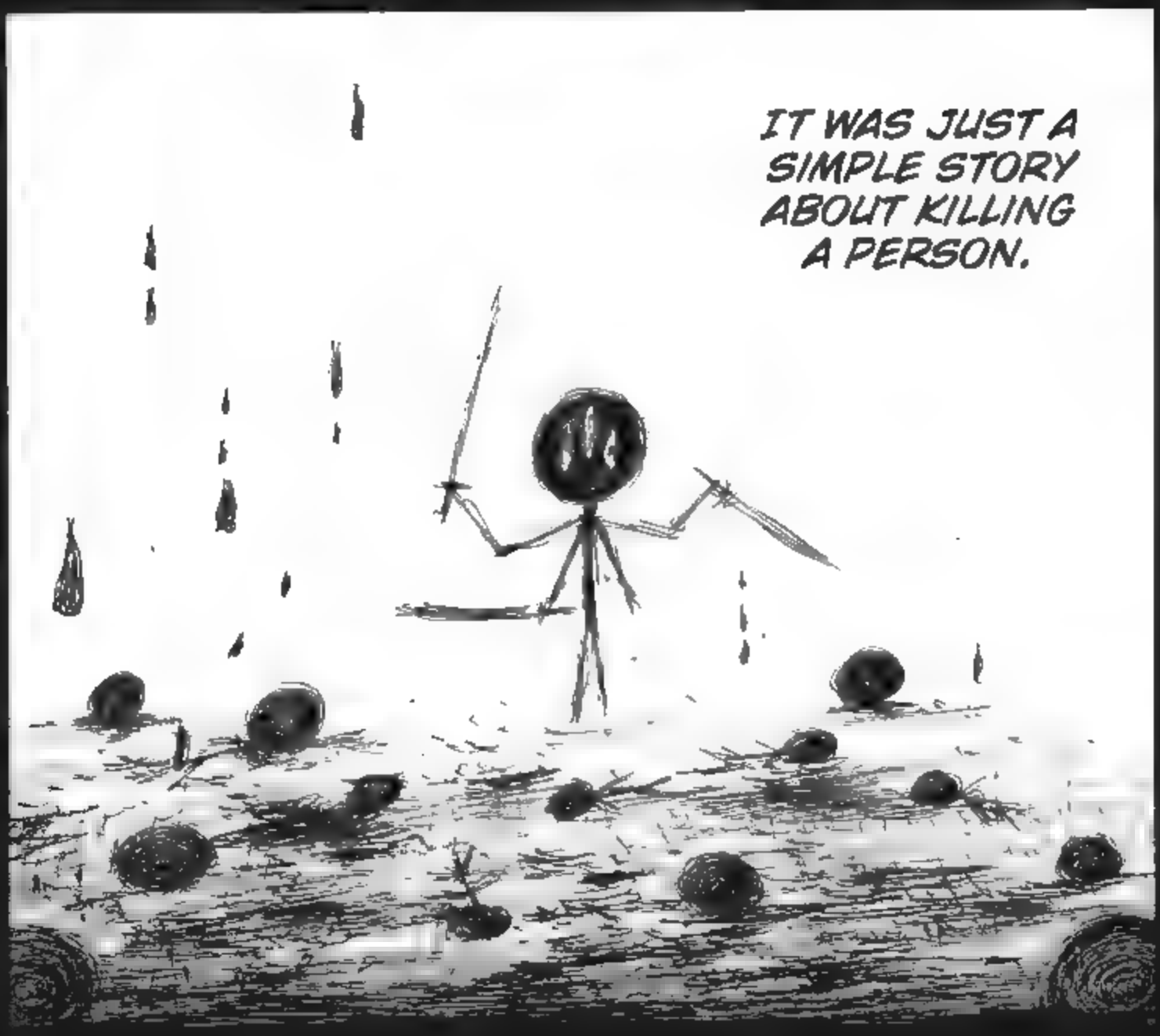
"YOU ARE YOU," IT SAID...

THINGS YOU ERASE.

OTHER PEOPLE ARE THINGS TO BE KILLED.

THE STORY DESCRIBED EVERY POSSIBLE WAY YOU COULD KILL A PERSON...

SOUL EATER



CHAPTER 87: JUST A SIMPLE STORY ABOUT KILLING A PERSON

THIS IS ALL THERE IS.

THIS IS ENOUGH FOR ME. IT'S REALLY ENOUGH

HITA (PLAP)

ヒタ

HITA

ヒタ

...
MEDUSA-SAMA.

I'VE JUST GOTTEN BACK...

...
CRÖNA.

YOU DID A WONDER-FUL JOB...

I AM HONORED TO RECEIVE YOUR PRAISE.

HERE, LET'S TAKE THAT COAT OFF.

I WATCHED YOUR FIGHT WITH TSAR PUSHKA IN RUSSIA.

YOU CERTAINLY PUT IN A HARD DAY'S WORK.

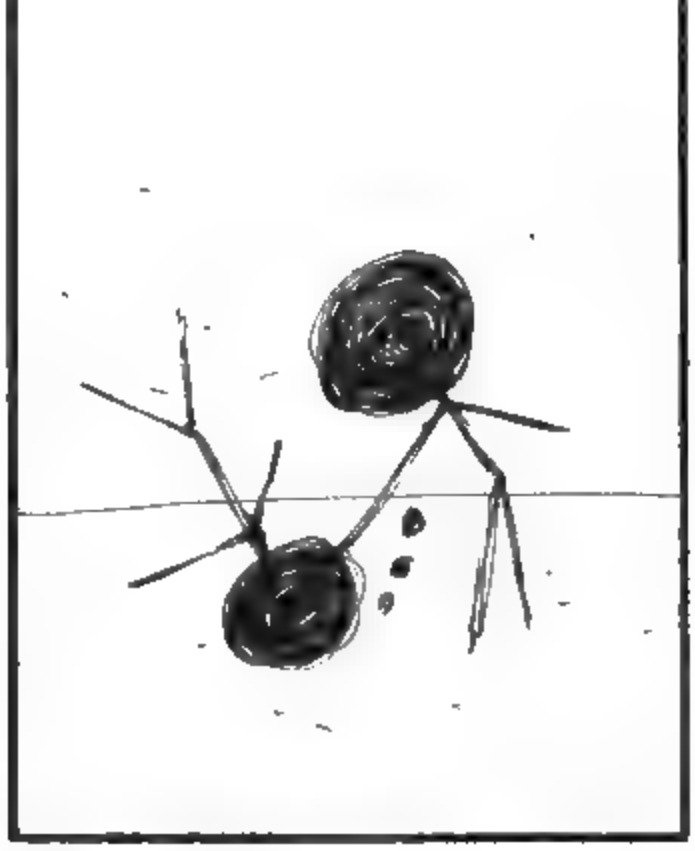
URAAA!!

FEODOR, BE CARE-FUL!!

FEODOR, BE CARE-FUL!!

MAD BLOOD

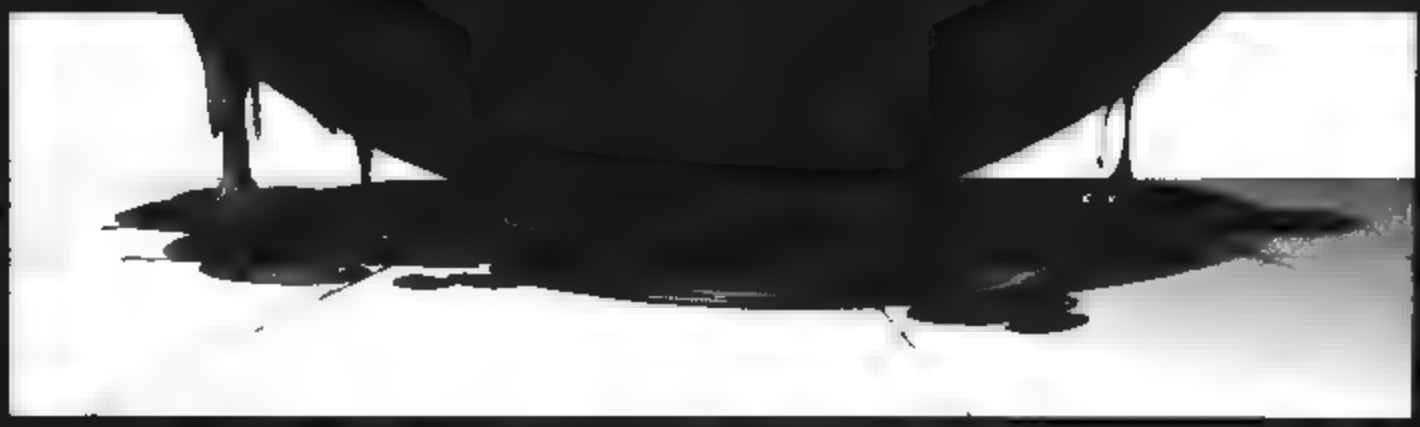
THAT ONE WAS A VERY SIMPLE WAY OF KILLING SOMEONE...



THINGS THAT GET SWALLOWED BY MAD-NESS...

...SWALLOW THE MADNESS...

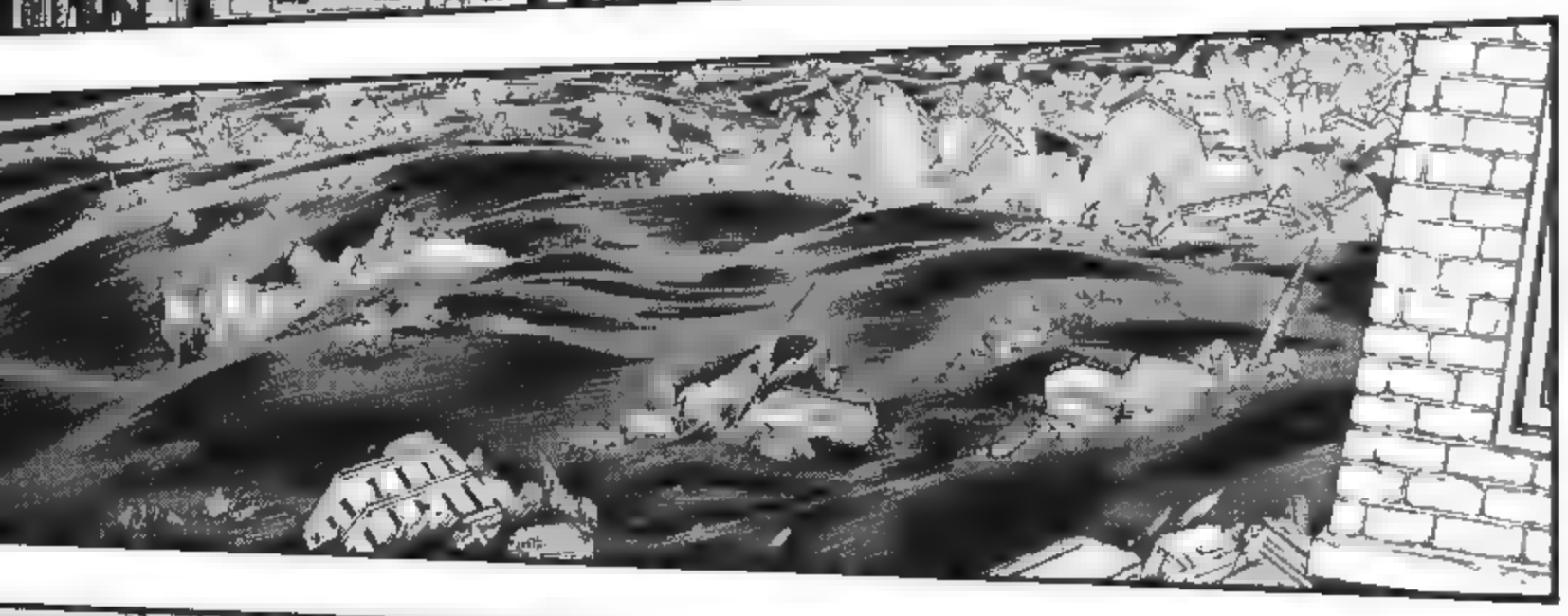
...AND MELT INTO THE MADNESS.

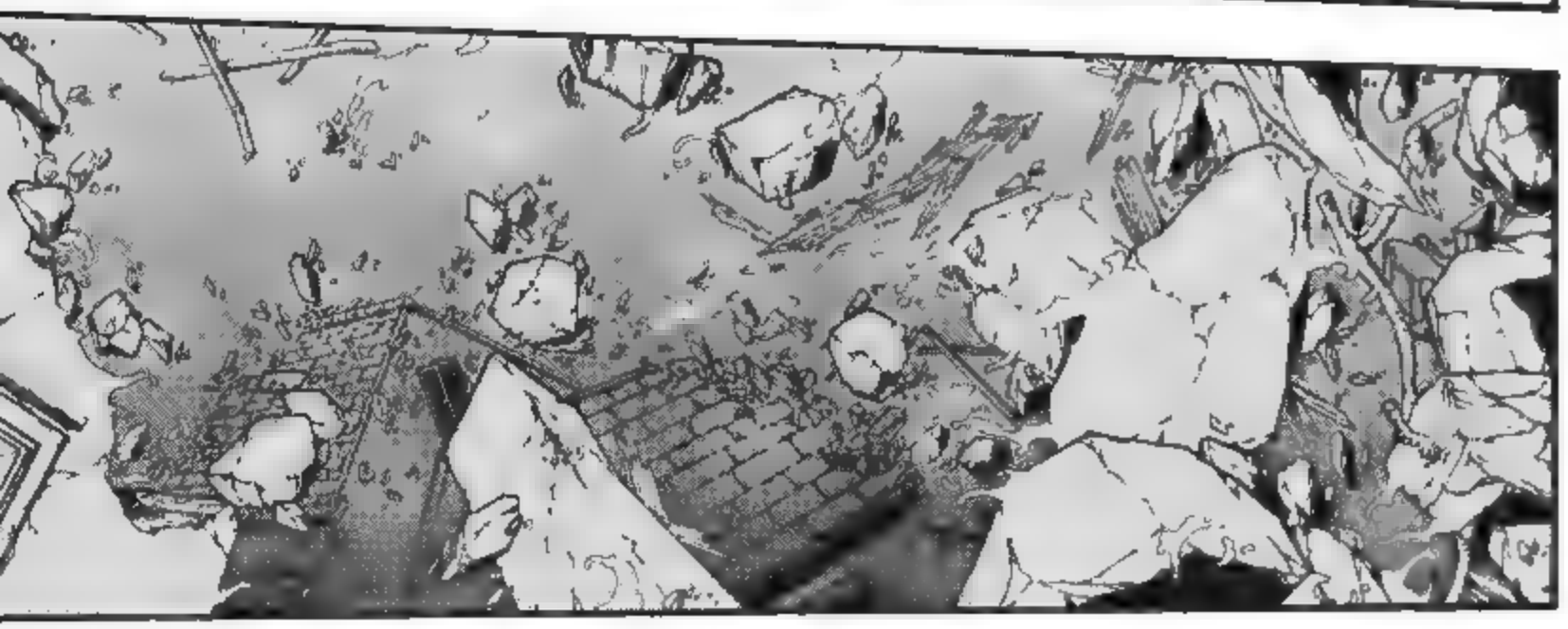


I WAS ESPECIALLY SURPRISED TO NOTE HOW THE BLACK SPHERES CREATED BY YOUR MAD BLOOD ATTACK EMITTED SUCH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF MADNESS.

THEN THEY HARDEN IN THE MADNESS.

AND THEN, TO SEE IT TAKE OUT AN ENTIRE CITY IN UKRAINE WAS A SIGHT TO BEHOLD.





AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!

DOR-u SHLOOP

BITA (SPLTCH)

MELT!!

HARDEN!!

I ALREADY HAVE YOUR DINNER READY FOR YOU.

YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER TODAY.

GU PYOO PWEE GYO PEE

IT'S THAT PASTA YOU LIKE SO MUCH.

MFPHWE PYO PYU KWEE GYU U PE S B WY EE O

HIKU

YES.

HIKU

HIKU (TWITCH)

HIKU

LOST ISLAND, SOME-WHERE NORTH OF ALASKA

A CATASTROPHIC ACCIDENT AT A DEMON TOOL DEVELOPMENT FACILITY ON THE ISLAND GAVE BIRTH TO AN UNUSUAL KIND OF MAGNETIC FIELD COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF DEMONIC ENERGY.

YEAH, I GUESS SO...

YEAH, BUT IT'S STILL FUN, RIGHT? THIS IS THE FIRST MISSION WE'VE BEEN ON WITH KID-KUN IN A LONG TIME.

BUT RIGHT NOW WE'RE JUST WAITING HERE OUTSIDE THE MAGNETIC FIELD. DO WE REALLY EVEN NEED TO BE HERE?

UNNNH... IT'S SO COOOLD... I HATE THIS PLACE.

BU

BU

BU (BZZT)

...BUT WAS THAT JUST AN AFTER-IMAGE? OR WAS IT THE REAL EIBON?

WE SAW EIBON HERE DURING THE BATTLE FOR "BREW"...

.....

NOTHING'S CHANGED. IT'S STILL THE SAME AS IT WAS LAST TIME WE WERE HERE.

ZUZU (FLICKER)

ZA (SHFF)

I DIDN'T KNOW BACK THEN, BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL NOW.

DODO (DUNDUN)

EIBON... YOU ARE THE REAL THING.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE QUITE A NUMBER OF HEAVY MATTERS WEIGHING ON YOUR CHEST, KID.

I CAME TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.

THE KISHIN... "BREW"...

... AND ...

SO YOU CAN SEE THROUGH EVERY-THING.

!

.....

..."COULD MY OWN FATHER BE THE ROOT CAUSE OF MADNESS?"... YES, MANY THINGS INDEED.

FOLLOW ME.

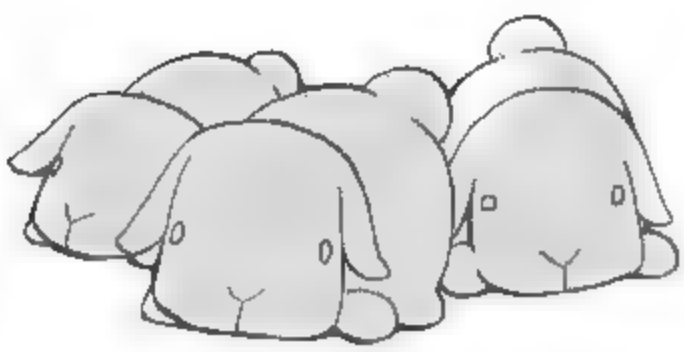
TODAY I WENT ALL OUT AND COOKED THIS SPECIAL MEAL JUST FOR YOU.

KURU (TWIRL)

KURU

.....

EAT UP.



KILL THEM.

HURRY AND DO IT.

TH-THEY'RE JUST BABY BUNNIES... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

WAIT... I'M REALLY, REALLY HUNGRY...

NOW YOU SIT IN HERE AND THINK ABOUT THAT.

WELL, UNTIL YOU DO, THERE WILL BE NO FOOD FOR YOU.

ALL RIGHT, IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS. I'M GIVING YOU YOUR FIRST CHANCE TO EARN SOME FOOD.

KACHI (CLICK)

KILL THE THREE LITTLE BUNNIES USING THREE DIFFERENT KILLING METHODS.

IF YOU DON'T DO IT NOW, THEN IT'S ANOTHER FIVE DAYS WITH NO FOOD.

IT'S JUST LIKE IN THAT PICTURE BOOK WE'RE ALWAYS STUDYING.

KILLING BY CUTTING.

KILLING BY CRUSHING.

KILLING BY BEATING.

VERY GOOD. TIME FOR DINNER.

KATA

KATA (CLINK)

EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT. THERE'S PLENTY LEFT FOR SECONDS.

AS SOON AS WE'RE DONE WITH DINNER, YOU CAN TAKE A NICE, HOT SHOWER AND ENJOY A MUCH-DESERVED REST.

I'M SO SORRY FOR ALL THE THINGS I'VE DONE TO YOU.

I KNOW HOW HARD IT MUST'VE BEEN.

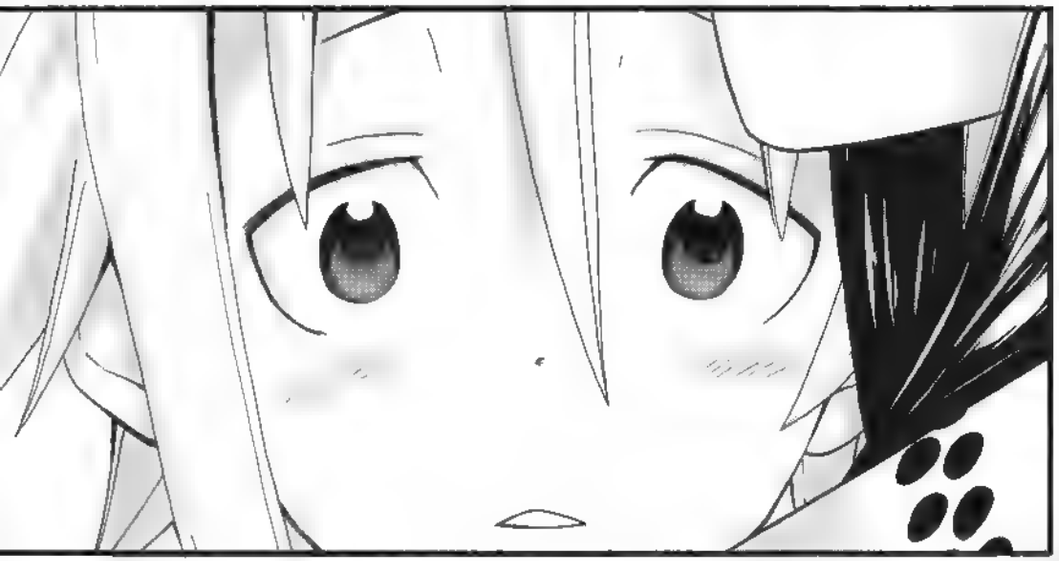
YOU ARE SUCH A GOOD CHILD...YOU REALLY ARE.

BUT YOU RALLIED YOUR STRENGTH AND KEPT AT IT LIKE A LITTLE TROUPER.

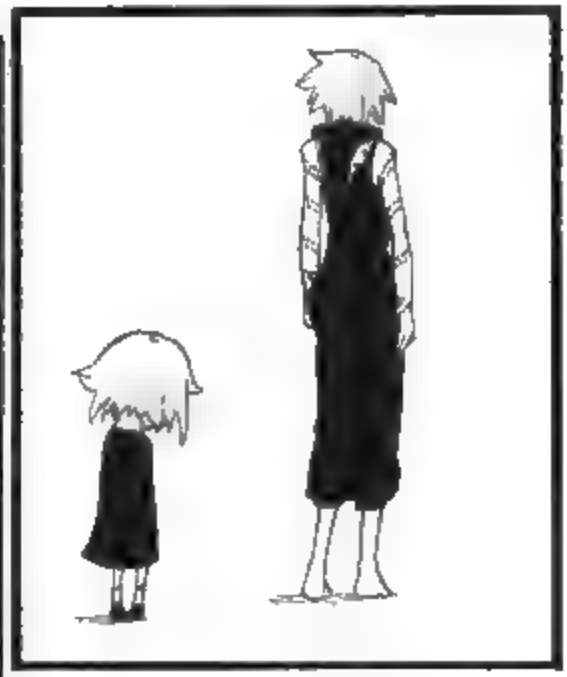
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO MAKE THE KISHIN YOURS.

THANKS TO YOU, CRONA, MY BLACK BLOOD RESEARCH IS ALMOST COMPLETE.

THANK YOU, CRONA.

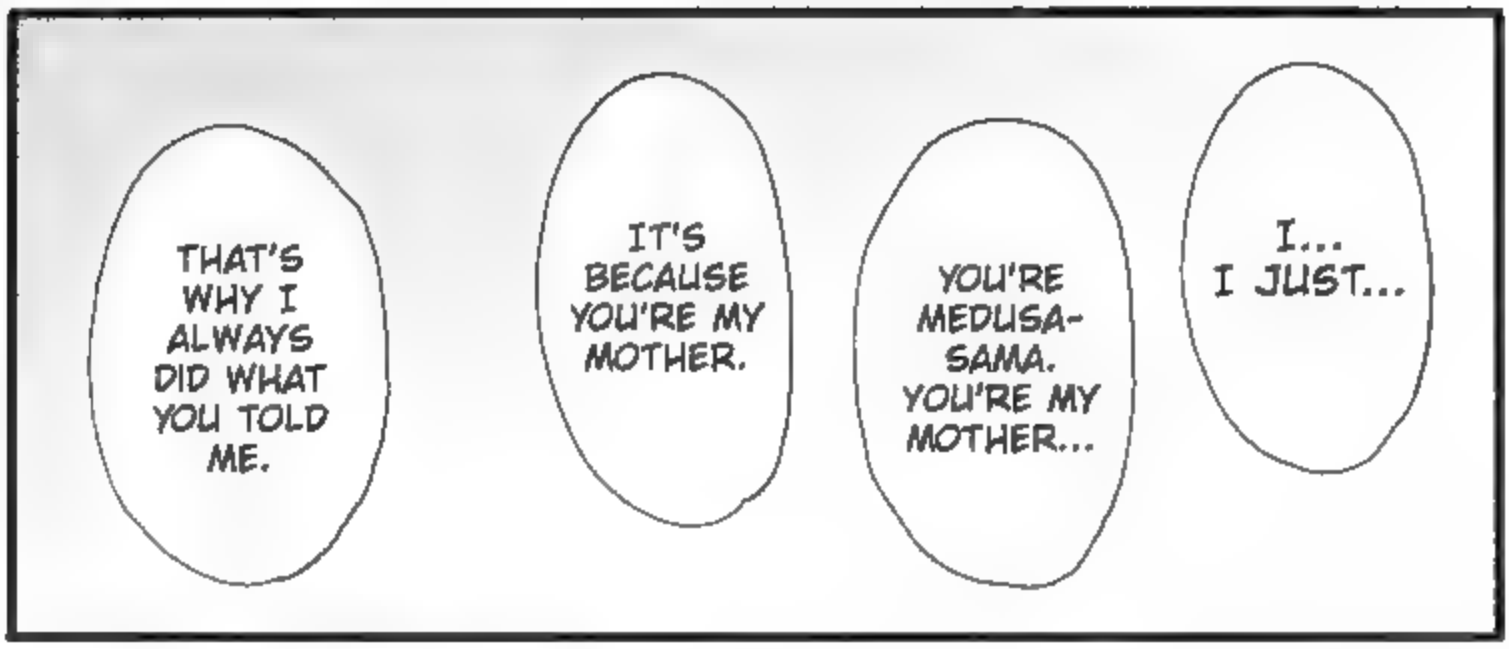


You are my pride and joy.



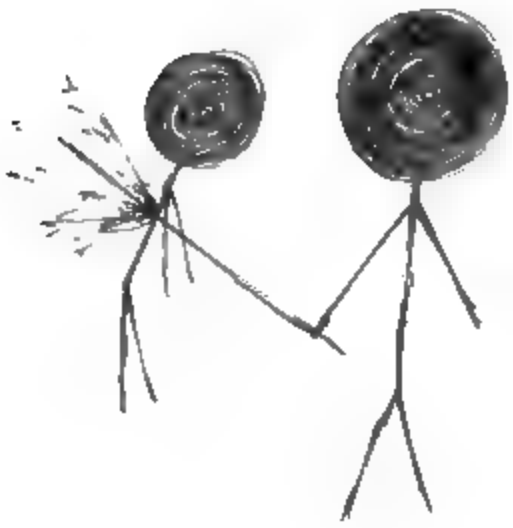
DON'T START BEING NICE TO ME ALL OF A SUDDEN.

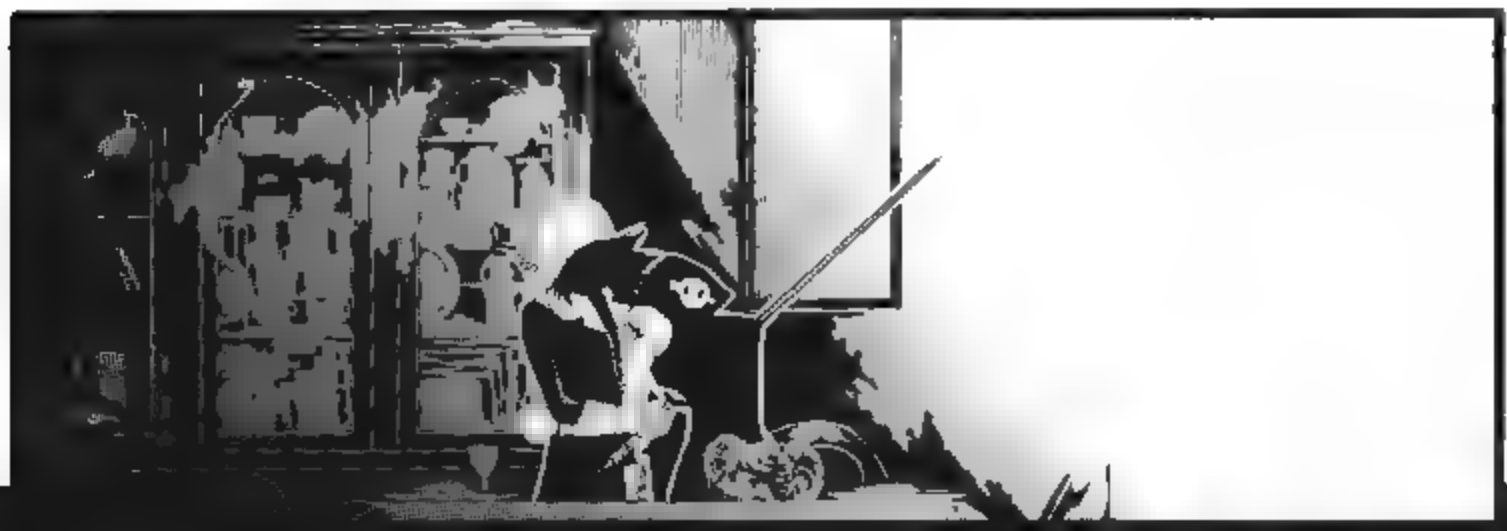
YOU CAN'T DO THIS.



I don't know how to deal with it....

KILLING BY STABBING.





I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT THEY MEAN.

I CAN'T STAND TO HEAR KIND WORDS FROM YOU. IT'S WORSE THAN A CONSTANT RINGING IN MY EARS.

I DID WHAT YOU SAID. I DID JUST AS YOU TOLD ME. I THREW IT ALL AWAY.

GU (PRESS)

CRONA ...?

I DID WHAT YOU TOLD ME, AND I THREW AWAY EVERY-THING!!

KRFF!

ZUBO (ZHLOOP)

GOBU (GRBLFF)

BU (SPLAT)

BU

YOU DON'T GET TO DO THAT, YOU HAG. YOU DON'T GET TO KEEP YOUR LOVE WHEN I DON'T HAVE MINE.

IT'S NOT FAIR WHAT YOU JUST DID...MY SO-CALLED MOTHER WHO ASKED ME TO THROW AWAY WHATEVER LOVE I HAD...THROWS THIS SO-CALLED LOVE RIGHT BACK IN MY FACE.

MY SO-CALLED MOTHER WHO SUPPOSEDLY THREW AWAY EVERYTHING HERSELF. SHOULDN'T THAT MEAN I HAD TO BE THROWN AWAY TOO?

YOU KNOW I EVEN THREW AWAY THAT "MAKA" GIRL.

AND NOW!! AND NOW!! AND NOW YOU DO THIS!!?

ROSA

WHO ARE YOU!!? GIVE ME BACK MY MOTHER!! MY REAL MOTHER WOULD NEVER SAY THOSE THINGS!!!

KACHI (CHAK)

KURU (TWIRL)

BYA (SPLATCH)

GOZU (GLRSH)
SHUU (SLRSH)
ZUZUZU (GLSHHH)
ZUDO (ZLSH)
GO (GSH)
DOSHUYA (SPURSHT)
BUBUBU (BLRRSH)
ZUBO (BLOOSH)
GUSHA (GLSHHH)

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

SURL
B-OOSH

I THINK IT MIGHT'VE BEEN SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT, BUT I DON'T CARE...I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ANYMORE.

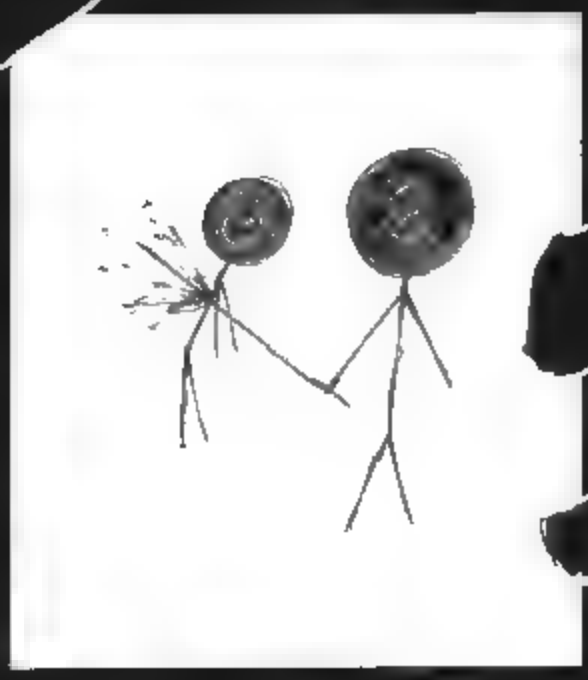
SOMETHING DIED. I KILLED SOMETHING.

IT'S COMPLETE!! YOU'VE CAST ASIDE YOUR FINAL SUPPORT, AND NOW THE BLACK BLOOD IS COMPLETE!!!

BASH
CRRK

I LOVE YOU, CRONA.

JUST A SIMPLE STORY ABOUT KILLING A PERSON... THAT'S ALL THIS WAS.



SOUL EATER 20 END

SOUL EATER

IT'S HERE!!

WHILE MAKA AND SOUL ARE ON A MISSION TO ASSIST A SMALL VILLAGE WITH ITS ANNUAL HUNT...

BYU (WOOSH)

...MID-FLIGHT, MAKA ENCOUNTERS AN ALARMING ABNORMALITY IN THE MADNESS WAVELENGTH.

FOR SOME REASON, MADNESS HAS A HIGHER CONCENTRATION UP HERE...

SO THAT'S IT... I NEVER NOTICED WHEN WE WERE ON THE GROUND.

.....

SO THEY'RE BASICALLY TELLING US TO EXECUTE CRONA...

ONCE AGAIN...

NO MATTER WHAT'S HAPPENED, TO ORDER YOU OF ALL PEOPLE TO KILL CRONA IS JUST CRUEL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHINIGAMI-SAMA WOULD DO THAT TO YOU GUYS.

...DWMA MUST CONFRONT A CRONA IN THE GRIP OF EXTREME MADNESS.

THE DEATH WEAPON TSAR PUSHKA AND HIS MEISTER FEODOR WERE ESSENTIALLY MURDERED BY CRONA...

...AND CRONA'S GIANT BLACK SPHERE SWALLOWED UP AN ENTIRE CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS.

BUT THIS TIME, SPARTOI IS GIVEN AN EXECUTION ORDER!!

CRONA MUST BE DISPOSED OF...IT'S UNAVOID-ABLE.

I'M GOING TO USE MY SOUL PERCEPTION AT FULL FORCE TO LOOK FOR CRONA...

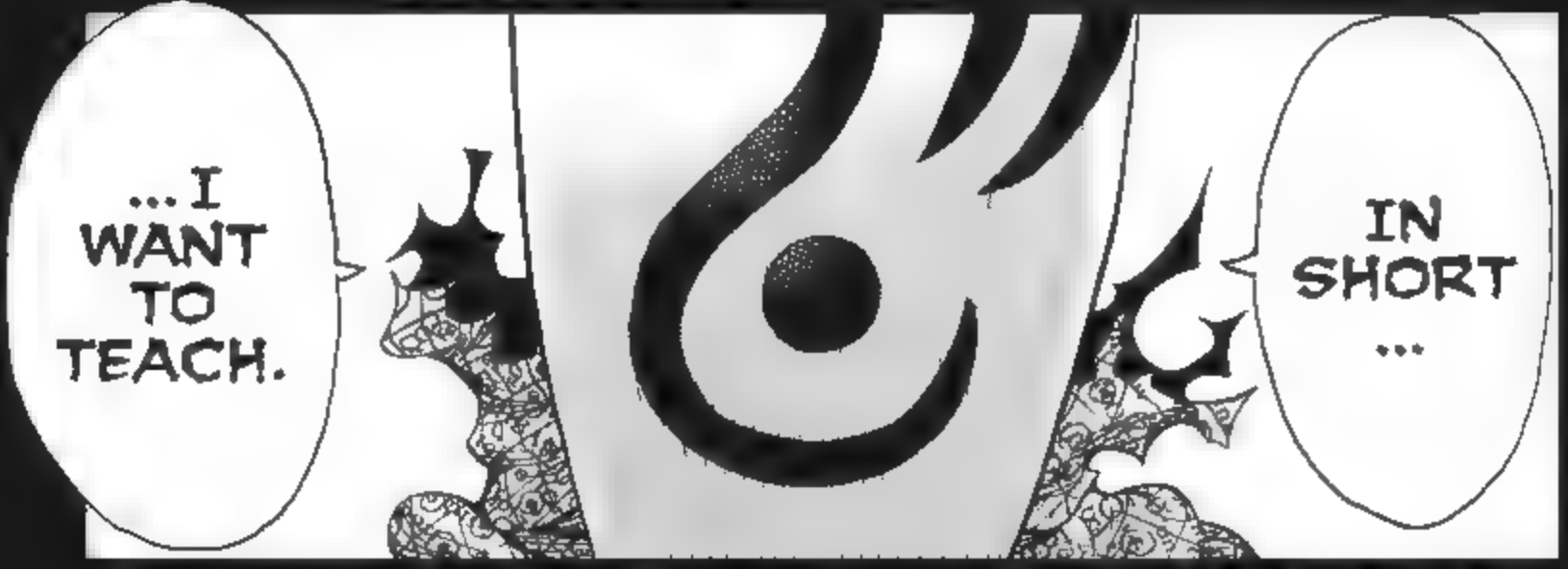
MAKA ...

TAPPING THE FULL EXTENT OF HER SOUL PERCEPTION ABILITIES, MAKA BEGINS THE SEARCH...

I'LL CAST MY CONSCIOUSNESS ACROSS THE ENTIRE WORLD.

...BUT WILL HER COMPASSIONATE INTENTIONS REACH HIM...?

AS ORDER CRUMBLES AND MADNESS BEGINS TO TAKE HOLD...



...DWMA MUST RISE TO THE CHALLENGE AND FIGHT TO RESTORE ORDER AT ANY COST!!

Continued in Soul Eater Volume 21!!

HIYA.
HEYA.
HOO-YA.
BI!
A PLACE WHERE "GYAAAAA!!!" LEADS TO "KABOOM!" .....
THIS IS ATSUSHI-YA.....
I'M SURE EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS THIS, BUT *SOUL EATER NOT!* IS A SIDE STORY I STARTED WRITING SEPARATE FROM THE MAIN *SOUL EATER* SERIES.
SO DID YOU ALL BUY A COPY OF *SOUL EATER NOT!* TOO...? THE FIRST ONE CAME OUT, LIKE, TWO YEARS AGO.
...I REALLY DIDN'T WANT *SOUL EATER* TO BECOME SOME KIND OF COMPLEX, INTELLECTUAL MANGA ENDEAVOR WHERE EVERY DETAIL AND ALL THAT OTHER FINICKY NONSENSE ENDS UP DROWNING OUT THE BIG THEMES.
AND ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE HAVING A STORY THAT SOLD WELL WITH ADULTS PROBABLY WOULD'VE MEANT MORE MONEY...
INSTEAD, I FOCUSED ON ACTION AND MOMENTUM. I CREATED A STORY STRUCTURE THAT ALLOWED ME TO JUST WRITE FREELY WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT THAT OTHER STUFF
I WAS OF THE OPINION THAT, AT THE TIME, THERE WERE WAY TOO MANY MANGA SERIES WHERE THE CHARACTERS WERE DEVELOPED THROUGH FLASHBACK SCENES AND ELABORATE BACKSTORY. THAT'S JUST TOO CLEVER FOR ITS OWN GOOD
SO WITH *SOUL EATER* I WANTED TO TRY WRITING A STORY ABOUT THE CHARACTERS IN THE HERE AND NOW WITHOUT TAKING THAT PAST-REFERENCING APPROACH.
EVEN BEFORE I STARTED WRITING *SOUL EATER*, I ALREADY HAD THE IDEA MORE-OR-LESS FORMED IN MY MIND.

I'D COMPLETELY BLOWN THE TIMING. NOW IT WAS TOO LATE TO START PUTTING IN MORE DETAILED EXPLANATIONS.

MUU (GRRR)

BUT THEN BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS ON VOLUME 20.

OF COURSE THE SETTING DETAILS LIKE DWMA AND SO FORTH WERE CLEAR IN MY MIND EVEN FROM THE START BECAUSE I SHARE MY IDEAS FOR ALL THOSE THINGS WITH MY EDITOR.

THE FORMAT GIVES ME PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE DETAILS ABOUT DWMA AND DEATH CITY AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE STORY SETTING, BUT I WROTE IT THE WAY I DID BECAUSE I WANTED READERS TO ENJOY THOSE ASPECTS OF THE *SOUL EATER* WORLD THROUGH AN ALTERNATE PRESENTATION THAT REALLY MOVES IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION FROM THE MAIN *SOUL EATER* SERIES.

SO THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO START WRITING *SOUL EATER NOT!*

PERSONALLY, I REALLY HATE IT WHEN AUTHORS DUMP PAGES AND PAGES OF LONG-WINDED BACK-STORY DETAILS AND COMPLICATED SETTING INFORMATION IN AN APPENDIX OR SOMETHING AT THE BACK OF THE BOOK. I WANTED TO EXPLAIN THINGS, BUT I WANTED TO DO IT INSIDE THE STORY.

WE REALLY, REALLY WANT TO BE POPULAR, SO PLEASE COME AGAIN SOON.....

THIS IS ATSUSHI-YA... A PLACE WHERE NEW SERIES ARE SHAMELESSLY PLUGGED IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO INCREASE SALES BY EVEN THE SMALLEST OF MARGINS.

NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER.

PEKKOSU (BOW)

IN SHORT, I HOPE YOU ENJOY BOTH SERIES— *SOUL EATER* AND *SOUL EATER NOT!*

Translation Notes

Common Honorifics

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Page 29
Feodor's name is a reference to Tsar Feodor I of Russia, son of Ivan the Terrible. His reign was a short and ineffectual one, and by most accounts he was feeble-minded and physically weak, dying heirless and without significant legacy beyond his commissioning of the famous Tsar Cannon (see below).

Page 30
Tsar Pushka's name is a direct reference to the Tsar Cannon (*tsar' pushka*), a magnificent cast-bronze cannon on display at the Kremlin in Moscow. It is a purely ceremonial cannon but impressively decorated and expertly cast in a massive caliber. Its size and ornamentation make it a popular tourist attraction in modern Russia. It was commissioned by Tsar Feodor I of Russia (see above) for reasons that are now lost to history.

Page 33
The writing seen on **Tsar Pushka's jacket** is пушка (*pushka* in Cyrillic), which means "cannon."

Page 35
The writing seen on **Tsar Pushka's helmet** is царь (*tsar'* in Cyrillic), which means "emperor."

Page 43
The battle cry **"ura"** is an actual Russian battle cry and is deliberately written in Cyrillic in the original (ура).

Page 90
When Soul is chided for his **limp attitude**, the ogre actually uses the Japanese phrase *chinkasu mitee na kibun*, which literally means "an attitude like penis smegma" but is being used in the figurative sense of "useless and lacking spunk."

Page 96
The **threat level indicators** used here are based on earthquake threat level codes used in Japan. The levels go from "S" ("severe," the highest threat; greater than 26% probability of occurrence) down through A, B, C, and D (the lowest threat; less than 0.1% probability of occurrence).

Page 121
Most of the ***Death Times* newspaper** shown on this page seems to be gibberish lettering, but the legible headline reads: "KATOLABOR BAKUHATUENZYOU," a nod to the Atsushi-ya bonus section at the end of every *Soul Eater* volume. *Katolabor* refers to the Catlabor robot (itself a parody of Patlabor). *Bakuhatuenzyou* is a Japan-style transliteration of what would normally be written *bakuhatsu enjo* ("explosion and fire") under the usual Japanese-to-English romanization rules. So the headline reads: "Catlabor explodes and goes up in flames!"

SOUL EATER

SOUL EATER 20

Atsushi Ohkubo

Translation: Jack Wiedrick

Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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